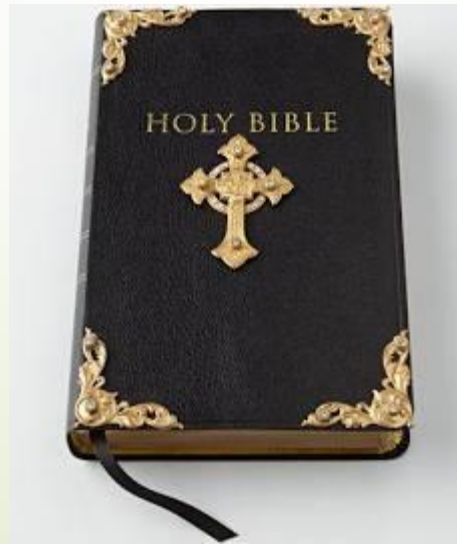





Introducing The Church Of Christ! Matthew 16:13-19




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- The term, “church,” is first used in the Bible by Jesus Christ Himself in Matthew 16:18
 - The term, “church,” comes from a Greek word, “ekklesia,” which literally means “called out”
 - In Jesus’ reference in Matthew 16:18, He says that He is going to build or put together his “called out” people, a people “called out” from the world to follow Him
 - Paul echoes the same idea in Colossians 1:13 (Christians are translated out of the power of darkness into the kingdom of Christ)



Jesus Promises to Give Peter the “keys,” or Methods of Getting into the Kingdom

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:19



The Church Was Not Built On The Apostle Peter, But On The Truth Of His Statement To Jesus! Matthew 16:16

*Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God."*

Verse 18

*"And I also say to you that you are Peter (petra, a small,
wobbly, and easily movable stone), and upon this rock
(petros, rock) I will build My church, and the gates of Hades
shall not prevail against it."*

Was Peter Wobbly?

- ➔ He denied the Lord 3 times subsequently, Matthew 26:69-75
- ➔ He was called out by the Apostle Paul, for his overt racist actions against his own brethren , Galatians 2:11-14



Paul Calls the Church the Pillar and Ground Of THE TRUTH!

“These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

1 Timothy 3:14-15

Observations

- The church was *Not* established by John the Baptist:
- As a matter of fact, John was not even in the kingdom (a great man, but not in the kingdom), Matthew 11:11, Jesus said:

“Assuredly, I say unto you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Therefore, The Church (the Kingdom) Must Be Special !



Jesus Christ Prayed For The Unity Of His Disciples and All Believers In The Garden of Gethsemane!

“I do not pray for these alone, but also those who believe in Me through their word; THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that you sent Me.”


John 17:20-21



**Question: How Does Jesus
Say He Can Convince The
World Of His Origin?**

***Through The
Oneness Of His
Believers!***





**Therefore, The Devil Believes
That if He Can Divide God's
People, He Can Fool The
World On Who Jesus Is!**

Paul Begged For Church Unity

***"I plead with you, brethren, by the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you
all speak the same thing, and that there
be no divisions among you, but that you
be perfectly joined together in the
same mind and in the same judgment."***

1 Corinthians 1:10



How Then Should Churches Unify?

On God's Word!

- Not on what societal trends say
- Not on what the denomination has traditionally believed
- Not on what the preacher says (Acts 17:11)
- Not on man-made disciplines, manuals, and catechisms
- Not even on what church conventions adopt as policy for everyone



Jesus Warned Against Substituting Man-Made Doctrines To Worship Him!

“This people draweth nigh to me with their mouth and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.”

Matthew 15:8-9



To Serve God *As He Desires*, We Must Stay Vigilant in The Doctrine Of Christ

***“Whosoever transgresseth, and
abideth not in the doctrine of Christ,
hath not God. He that abideth in the
doctrine of Christ, he hath both the
Father and the Son.”***

2 John 9



The Point Is:

***The Church (ekklesia), or
“called out” That Jesus
Built, Derives Its Authority
From The Holy Scriptures
On All Matters!***



The Holy Scriptures Rule!

On Authority - 1Peter 4:11

On How to Become a Member of the Lord's Church and the subject of Salvation - Acts 2

On the organization of the church and the qualifications of Elders, and Deacons in local churches - 1 Timothy 3:1-13

On Stewardship - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

On Prayer and Its Goals - Philippians 4:6-7

On What Acts Should Constitute Public Worship - John 4:24



***So Study With Us As
We Investigate
These Fundamental
Principles Of
Worshipping God!***





The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7, 1Corinthians 15:1-4

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent Of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38

