

## ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

### INTRODUCTION

What IS the church of the New Testament? (1) It is the one we read about IN the New Testament. (2) It is the one that belongs to Christ that HE built, and does **not** wear name that is not even mentioned or alluded to in the New Testament. (3) It is the one described in the New Testament. Today's lesson will be the first in a series of 4, as we shall discuss it's **origin**, it's **definitation**, it's **role** in God's scheme of redemption, and it's **membership**.

### I. 1<sup>st</sup> THE ORGIN OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

A. It's origin goes back to GOD and ETERNITY.

1. Though God created man sinless, He gave man a choice, and foresaw the working of Satan, and that man would someday need a Savior and salvation.
2. His plan for salvation involved **CHRIST** and the **CHURCH**.
  - a. He announced to Satan the coming of the Savior. Gen. 3:15
  - b. He planned the church, which was actually set in motion through the institution of marriage which foretold the church.
    - 1) God planned the church in eternity before man. Eph. 3:10-11
    - 2) The first marriage union pictured the church. Eph. 5:23-32

B. Now let's examine a few prophecies from the OLD Testament that relate to **the latter days, stone, kingdom, mountain, and Jerusalem** or Zion. Psa. 118:22-24; 1Pet. 2:6-7; 1Tim. 3:15; Isa. 2:2-3; 28:16; Gal. 6:10; Dan. 2:(1-27) 28-45; Matt.16:18-19; 21:42-43; Acts 1:3,4,8; 2:(1-5), 16-17, 21, (22-41, 47). (Analyze these verses carefully and connect them with 6 points here).

1. So, the kingdom or church began in Jerusalem or Zion, as foretold.
2. Those **in the kingdom** were and are in the **church**. Heb. 12:28; Col. 1:13; Rev.1:4,9

C. What we have just studied tells us about the **origin** of the church of the New Testament.

### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, WHAT ABOUT OTHER CHURCHES NOT "OF CHRIST"?

A. It is documented that there are now over 35,000 distinct, separate denominations in the world today, wearing different names, teaching different doctrines.

1. Many of them **claim** to BE churches "of Christ", but none of them began before 1500 A.D, and they refuse to be known as such, but prefer their denominational names.
2. They admit to having started in other cities than Jerusalem, and have headquarters on earth (rather than heaven where Christ is) and have written creeds other than the New Testament, and rulers or heads or presidents of their denominations.
3. The emphasis in many of these bodies is to create an emotional atmosphere, coupled with entertainment, and raising financial support for their operations.

4. They **refuse** adhere to the teachings of the New Testament, and **resent ANY** church that strives to follow ONLY the New Testament, and actually BE the true church of Christ.

B. Their members need to be reminded of the warnings of Jesus. Matt. 15:9, 13-14

1. The New Testament teaches that Christ built and has only **one** church, and not 35,000 denominations of it in the world. John 17:20-21; 1Cor. 1:10

2. The one church is made up of many local congregations, each believing and teaching the same thing.

3. To teach something different is to depart from God. 2 John 9

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. We have just described the church of the New Testament.

A. It has the divine right to exist.

B. No other religious body has the divine right to exist, and does not meet God's approval.

II. Are you a member of the New Testament church?

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