

THE 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, and does **not** wear a name that is not even mentioned or alluded to in the New Testament. (3) It is the one described by the apostles of Christ, as is recorded in the New Testament. Today's lesson is the first in a series of 4 lessons, in which we shall discuss its **origin**, it's **definition**, it's **role** in God's scheme of redemption, and it's **membership**.

I. 1st, THE ORIGIN 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 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. Eph. 3:1-11
 - 2) The first marriage union pictured the church. Eph. 5:23-32

B. Now let's examine a few prophecies as they relate to the **the latter days**, the **stone, church**, the **kingdom**, a **mountain** and **Jerusalem**. Psa. 118:22-24; 1 Pet. 2:5; 1 Tim. 3:15; Isa. 2:2-3; Gal. 6:10; Dan. 2:(1-27) 28-45; Mat. 16:18-19; 21-45; Acts 1:3.4.8; 2:1-5, 16-17, 21, (22-41, 47) (*Analyze these verses carefully, and connect them with the 6 points here*).

1. So, the kingdom or church began in Jerusalem, 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 about the **origin** of the church of the New Testament.

II. 2nd, 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.
1. Many of them **claim** to be churches "of Christ", but they refused to be known as such, but prefer their denominational names.
 2. They admit to having started in other cities than Jerusalem.
 3. Most 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.
 4. The emphasis in many of these bodies is to create an emotional atmosphere, coupled with entertainment, and raising financial support for their operations.
 5. They **refuse** to adhere to the teachings of the New Testament.

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

1. The New Testament teaches that Christ has only **one** church.
2. It's many local congregations are to teach and believe the same thing.
1 Cor. 1:10
3. To teach something different is to depart from God. 2 John 9
4. **THIS** church is the only one God established, and the only one that has divine right to exist, and all who desire heaven should be in **it**.

CONCLUSION

I. Our future lessons in this series will be (1) A **definition** of the church; (2) What **ROLE** the church has in God's **scheme of redemption**, and (3) Who has **membership** in the church of the New Testament.

II. Are you a member of this church?

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