

DOES JESUS HAVE A CHURCH?

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Does Jesus have a church?
2. If Jesus does have a church:
 - a. How do we know?
 - b. Does he have more than one church?
 - c. How many churches does he have?
 - d. When was his church established?
 - e. At what place was it established?
 - f. How is it identified by name or scriptural designation?
 - g. How does one become a member of the Lord's church?
3. How do we know or how can we find the proper answer to these questions? The answer can be found in the Bible and only in the Bible.
4. It is the burden of this lesson to find the answer to these questions from the Scriptures. What does the Bible say?

II. DISCUSSION

A. WE KNOW JESUS HAS A CHURCH

1. Because he promised to build his church, Mt.16:16-19; cf. Psa.127:1; Zech.6:12,13; Eph.2:19-22.
2. Because he purchased his church with his own blood, Ac.20:28; Eph.5:25; 1Pet.1:18,19.
3. Because he is the head of his church, Eph.1:22,23; 5:23; Col.1:18.
4. Because he is the savior of his church, Eph.5:23-27; 1:22,23.
5. Because he is the son over his own house, which is his church, Heb.3:6; cf.1; 1Tim.3:14,15.
6. Because his church existed in N.T. times and wore his name, Rom.16:16.

B. WE KNOW HE HAS ONLY ONE CHURCH

1. Because he promised to build only one church, Mt.16:16-19.
2. Because he purchased only one church with his blood, Ac.20:28; Eph.5:23-27; 1Cor.6:19,20; 1Pet.1:18,19.
3. Because he is the head of only one church, Eph.1:22,23; 5:23; Col.1:18.
4. Because he is the savior of only one church, which is his body, Eph.5:23-27.
5. Because there is only one body, which is his church, Eph.4:4-6; 1:22,23; Col.1:18,24.

C. WHEN AND WHERE WAS THIS CHURCH BELONGING TO CHRIST ESTABLISHED? OR WHEN AND WHERE DID IT HAVE ITS BEGINNING?

1. Where, or its place, Isa.2:2,3; Mic.4:2; Lk.24:44-49.
2. When, or its time, Isa.2:2,3; Mic.4:2; Dan.2:44; Mk.9:1; Ac.1:1-8; 2:1-4; 11:15.
 - a. Thus, on 1st Pentecost after his death, burial, resurrection and ascension.

b. Therefore, on the 1st day of the week, A.D. 33.

D. HOW IS THE CHURCH BELONGING TO CHRIST IDENTIFIED BY NAME OR SCRIPTURAL DESIGNATIONS?

1. Collectively: The church, the kingdom, ch. of God, ch. of Christ, body of Christ, his house.
2. Individually: Disciples, brethren, saints, Christians.

E. WHAT IS ITS METHOD OF ENTRANCE? OR, HOW DOES ONE BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH BELONGING TO CHRIST? Ac.2:21,36-41,47; 1Cor.12:13; 1Pet.3:21; Ac.22:16; Mk.16:15,16; Mt.28:18-20.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Now we know:
 - a. Jesus has a church, a church belonging to him.
 - b. He has only one church belonging to him.
 - c. He built only one church belonging to him.
 - d. When and where his church was established or had its beginning.
 - e. His church bears his name, not some human name.
 - f. How it is identified by name or scriptural designation, both collectively and individually.
 - g. What its method of entrance is, or how one becomes a member of his church.
2. Surely you would agree that a church established by man or men at another time or place than the Lord's couldn't be the church belonging to the Lord! Nor could he be the head and savior of that church! No the one purchased by his blood! Nor the one built by him!
3. Surely a church that doesn't bear the Lord's name, but some human name, some name unknown to the Bible, can't be the Lord's church.
4. If you claimed to have been saved and entered the church of which you are a member in some way or means other than that by which the Bible reveals one is saved and enters the Lord's church, then the church of which you are a member can't be the Lord's church!
5. When it comes to the Bible doctrine of the Lord's church, will you agree with and accept what the Bible says or with what men teach and practice?
6. Weigh your decision and practice in the light of Mt.15:9; Col.2:20-23; 2Jno.9; Heb.5:8,9; Mt.7:21-27.