

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH?

Denominationalism is so embedded into the psyche of religious thought that the average person has lost sight of the church. As a matter of fact, many equate denominationalism and the church as one and the same. When they read passages dealing with “the church” (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:25) they either think of their denomination or that all of the denominations make up the church. The thought of one exclusive body of saved people has probably never, or seldom, entered their mind. The reaction of many varies and confirms the difficulty they have in seeing the difference in the church of the New Testament and denominationalism.

In your mind’s eye transport yourself to the first century and ask yourself the following questions:

1. What church was Peter, Paul and John a member of?
2. Did denominationalism exist in the first century?
3. Were Peter, Paul, and John members of different religious groups?
4. Were there different churches the Lord added the saved to on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:47)?

The answers to those questions clearly reveals denominationalism did NOT exist in the first century! The church that Christ said He would establish (Matthew 16:18), and is the head thereof (Ephesians 1:22-23) is NOT a denomination! The church was established on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ as recorded in Acts 2. All who responded to the gospel on the day of Pentecost accepted Christ as the Messiah, and were immersed in order to receive the remission of their sins (Acts 2:6-38). Having done that “*the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*” (Acts 2:47). It is the plea of churches of Christ for all men to lay aside their creeds, manuals, disciplines, confessionals and catechisms, and follow only the Bible! We are NOT asking people to “join the church of

Christ denomination!” Our plea is for people to simply be a Christian and not a member of anything other than the church, the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18) which you can read about in the Bible!

Unfortunately, men have not always been content to follow the scriptures. As a result of that, religious groups and institutions not established by Christ began to be formed. Since Christ did NOT establish these groups, they stand under His condemnation, “*But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch*” (Matthew 15:13-14).

The Bible teaches that there is one, and only one, church that Christ established. Take note of the following passages of scripture that affirms this great truth.

“And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

“...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23).

“And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby” (Ephesians 2:16).

“That the Gentile should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel” (Ephesians 3:6).

“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling” (Ephesians 4:4).

Therefore, since the Bible teaches that there is one, and only one, church, then all religious groups other than the Lord’s church are false religious bodies and stand under His curse. For one to preach that there is more than one church or that all of the denominations make up the church is to preach a different gospel. Regarding preaching a different gospel, Paul said, “*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed*” (Galatians 1:8-9).

As on the day of Pentecost, so it is today, when sincere souls hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24), repent of their sins (Luke 13:3), confess Christ (Matthew 10:32), and are immersed in order to receive the remission of their sins (Acts 2:47), the Lord adds them to the church (Acts 2:47). Notice, please, the Lord does NOT add them to the church of Christ denomination, but the church, the one that Christ established and wherein are the saved! Are you a member of the church?

Ivie Powell from Curry Street Bulletin

Plan now to attend our Spring

Gospel Meeting

Toney Smith

April 9-13, 2006

Sunday 9:30 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm

Monday – Thursday 7:00 pm

Wednesday Class 10:00 am

BIRTHDAYS

Dave Parish, 03-12; Derek Wilson, 03-16.

ILL

Sunday: Jennifer Carter AM. **Wednesday:** Anne Adams, Dee Adams, Chris Edwards, Marcum family. Barry Nebergall will have surgery in Arkansas this week for a brain tumor. Jenny Johnson was in the hospital in Tulsa last week. Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, Kim Clark, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is at the Del Mar Gardens, Room 229. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Parish family is in Davenport, IA visiting relatives. The Greers were in Oak Grove, Sunday AM. Jeremy Keifer was away. Myron Nebergall was in Newton, KS. Tom Tucker was in Eldon, MO last week.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, March 12, following our AM worship.

WEDDING SHOWER

There will be a wedding shower for Jodie Wilson at 1 PM on March 18 hosted by Wilba Hopkins and Julia Thrasher at Wilba's house.

MOVING

Joe and Karen Brewer will be moving to Houston, TX March 21 due to their employment.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 58; Sunday PM, 47; Wednesday PM, 48.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." **Mark 16:16**

Those To Serve

March 12, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYERJeremy Keifer
PRESIDE..... Myron Nebergall
ASSIST.....David Adams
ASSIST..... John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Michael Simmons
CLOSING PRAYER..... Charles Tullis
LORD'S SUPPER..... Myron Nebergall

WEDNESDAY 15th

SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
INVITATION Michael Simmons

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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