

*Thanks to our Speaker
Jack Wright*

Everything is “summed up in Christ”

“He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him, regarding His plan of the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.”

Ephesians 1:9-10

“And He put all things in subjection under His feet and made Him head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:22-23

May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff

15 Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Temporary Meeting Times

Sunday.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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The Test of a Church

By Seth Myers

Did you know there are over 30,000 various “Christian” “churches” in the world today? Did you know that—in the New Testament (NT)—there is only ONE church (Matthew 16:18; Romans 12:4,5; 1 Corinthians 12:12,13,20; et al.)? That leads to this eternally important question: HOW DO I KNOW WHICH CHURCH IS THE CHURCH?

In the New Testament—especially in the book of Acts and the epistles of Paul (Romans – 2 Timothy)—we can read of the various characteristics of THE church that belongs to Christ:

- Its Teachings
- Its Practices
- Its Pattern of Worship
- Its Organization
- Its Government

To put a church to the test, simply compare/contrast the characteristics of any given church to the characteristics of Christ’s church (which can be found nowhere but the New Testament). Here is the kicker: if a church differs, in any capacity (e.g., teaching, practice, worship, organization, gov’t, etc.), with CHRIST’S church (according to the descriptions found in the New Testament) —then that church is NOT Christ’s church, which He built and purchased with His blood (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28).

A great key is found in Acts 2:42: *“And they continued steadfastly IN THE APOSTLES’ TEACHING...”*

Likewise: “*Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all SPEAK THE SAME THING and that there be NO DIVISIONS among you...*” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

“*Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received FROM US*” (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

“*If anyone does not obey what WE say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed*” (2 Thessalonians 3:14).

“*If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are A COMMAND OF THE LORD*” (1 Corinthians 14:37).

The only way any church can be THE church which THE Creator purchased with THE blood of THE Son of THE God is if it “continue[s] steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching.” A “denomination” (i.e., “division”) is born when men stop “*continu[ing] steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching*” (Acts 2:42). Thus, any church that is not “continu[ing] steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching” is NOT Christ’s church, but is just another “*self-made religion*” (Colossians 2:23)...and no self-made religion has ever gotten a single soul to heaven (cf. Matthew 23:15).

Study the New Testament and read about Christ’s only church: if a church varies, in any capacity from THAT church, I urge you to get out, and find one that operates strictly and solely according to the pattern found in the New Testament, with nothing added or subtracted—i.e., one that is “*in Christ*” (Galatians 2:6) and “*of Christ*” (Romans 16:16).

“*Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, DOES NOT HAVE GOD. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son*” (2 JOHN 9).

Salvation is in the Church

By Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

The idea that one is first saved by some mystical or mystified, unintelligible or intangible process, and afterwards “joins some church” is a common religious delusion. Yet, there is no truth more plainly emphasized in the Bible than the fact that the process of being saved is the process of entering the church (Acts 2:47).

1. It is affirmed in Acts 4:12 that salvation is in Christ. Then, to have salvation, one must get into Christ. But Paul, by analogy, in Ephesians 5:30, teaches that as husband and wife are one, so Christ and the church are one. “*I speak concerning Christ and the church,*” he said. Christ and the church being one, how can one be in Christ and out of the church?

2. Paul makes the fact that Christ is “*the savior of the body*” (5:23) the ground of his exhortation to the Ephesians concerning the church as the bride of Christ (5:25). He washed it and sanctified it, cleansed and saved it, purchased it with His blood and redeemed it, reconciles us to God in it, and adds all the saved to it. Therefore, out of the church there is no cleansing, no blood, no redemption, no reconciliation to God, no salvation.

3. The relation between Christ and the church is the same as that which exists between God and Christ. Christ is the “fullness” of God (Col. 1:19), and the church is the “fullness” of Christ (Eph. 1:22). Therefore, no man can come to Christ and ignore the church for the same reason that no man can come to God and ignore Christ.

We exhort the unsaved to come to Christ, “*gladly receive the word,*” be “*baptized into Christ,*” and the Lord will add you to His church.