

The Church That Jesus Built

There is a lot of confusion in the realm of religion. There are churches on practically every street corner. With which church should I identify with? In the first century there was no such confusion. There was only one church. There were multiple religions and gods but only one church. It should be understood that there was only one church because Jesus promised to build only one (Matthew 16:18).

In the confusion brought about by so many churches called by so many different names and teaching so many different doctrines, how can a person sort through the mass and find the same church today that Jesus built?

In the first place the church that Jesus built will be called by His name. The human names do not identify or characterize the Church that Jesus built. In the Bible the church is called, "church of Christ" (Romans 16:16). Sometimes the church is referred to as simply "the church" (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23). Other references to the church that Jesus built is "body" (Col. 1:18), "kingdom" (Acts 8:12; 1 Thess. 2:12). A church that wears any name other than Christ's is not the church that Jesus built.

The prophets foretold that the church would begin in Jerusalem in the last days (Isa. 2:2-4; Dan. 2:44; Joel 2:28-32). Peter, on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus, said the things taking place were the fulfilling of this prophecy (Acts 2:16-21). Any church that had its beginning anywhere other than Jerusalem or originated at any other time than the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus is not the church Jesus built.

The church that Jesus built taught the doctrine of Christ. Throughout the New Testament we are given the doctrine of Christ by the apostles concerning salvation, worship, and service. The human originated churches are teaching the doctrines of man. All churches outwardly are claiming to be teaching the doctrine of Christ, but much of what is actually taught is found in creeds and confessions of faith, not Scripture. Where does the Bible teach salvation by faith alone? Where in the Bible do we read of anyone being saved because they prayed the "sinners prayer"? The doctrine of Christ says, "repent and be baptized everyone of you for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Any church today that is teaching things that you can not read in the Bible is not the church Jesus built.

Investigate the church where you attend. Does it wear a human name or Christ's? Does the church you attend teach only that which is found in the Bible? Did the church you attend have its beginning later than the first century? The church Jesus built is described in the New Testament and that same church is functioning today wherever the doctrine of Jesus is being followed in word and deed.

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