

Jesus established only one Church

Part I

There are many "churches" in the world today, but are they all from God? Are they all biblically correct? A study of the New Testament will show the true nature and origin of the one true church as well as where it began.

The first thing that must be established is that the "kingdom," prophesied in the Old Testament, and the "church," fulfilled in the New Testament, are one and the same. Proof of this fact lies within Matthew 16:18-19 where the two words are used interchangeably. "And I say also 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. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19). Notice also from this text the use of the singular word's "church" and "it." The use of the singular indicates that Jesus founded only one church. Only one church, established on the day of Pentecost, came from God (Acts 2:47).

A unique characteristic of the New Testament church is its beginning. Only the New Testament church was founded by Deity. Every other "church" that ever was, is or will be cannot claim this distinction. The main proofs are (1) Christ is the foundation on which the church was built, (2) Christ is the Head and Savior of the church, (3) God planned the church before the creation of the world, and (4) it was established in Jerusalem.

The church of the New Testament was founded by and on Christ, based on the confession of Peter, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). The significance of Jesus founding the church and residing over it as Head is that He is divine. John 1:1-2 declares that the "Word" and God are the same. The verses further proclaim that the "Word" was with God in the beginning. In this text, the "Word" is none other than Jesus Christ. Romans 1:4 states that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the Son of God, and therefore Deity.

Matthew 16:18, as quoted earlier, records Jesus Himself foretelling the foundation of His church. Notice the use of the personal pronoun "I." The fact that Jesus is the Son of God is the rock foundation upon which the church was built. The record of the fulfillment of this prophecy is recorded in Acts chapter two where the apostles preached the Gospel of Christ and added about three thousand souls to the church through obedience to the Gospel. First Corinthians 3:11 says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Peter 2:4 likens Christ to "a living stone." Verse six then calls Him the "chief cornerstone" while verse seven (and Acts 4:11) calls Him "the head of the corner." The church of the New Testament was founded by Jesus Christ, thus showing the divine origin.