

The Church of Christ

Int.

1. Aim: To show the close relationship that exists between Christ and His Church.
2. Rm. 16:16 "Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."
 - a. Local churches who knew Paul was sending this letter asked Paul to relay their greetings to the church at Rome.
 - b. Paul had established many churches in his missionary journeys - each local congregation was a church - when you have many they are called churches
 - c. Paul was in communication with most of the churches and they would all feel interested in the believers at Rome
 - d. Salute = greet, welcome, embrace
3. Christ and His church are closely related
 - a. He is the builder, the head, the saviour
 - b. There is no salvation apart from Christ - Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
4. Some people have said - give me Jesus, but not the church
 - a. They say "Jesus yes, the Church No."
 - b. This is likely a rebellion against the false religions with all the false doctrines and hypocrisies.
 - c. But there is no real separation between the church and Christ
5. Let us see how Christ is so closely related to His church.

Discussion

I. CHRIST IS THE BUILDER

A. Scriptures

1. Mt. 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."
 - a. Will = future
 - b. Build = construct, establish, build up from foundation
 - c. This announcement was made within the view of the city of Caesarea Philippi
 - a city built upon a great ledge of rock
 - d. Petros is masculine - Petra is feminine == They cannot be used to mean the same thing since they are of different gender
 - (1) Peter you are a He-Rock [masculine] and upon this She-rock [feminine] I will build my church
 - (2) Peter you are a rock - just like a pebble.
 - (3) Upon this solid bed rock, this massive truth you have confessed, that I am the Christ, the Son of the Living God, I will build my church.
 - (4) Matt. 16:16 "Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
 - e. They understood that the foundation upon which this church was to be built was Christ.
2. I Cor. 3:11 - there is no other foundation but Christ "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."
3. Christ is the architect of the church and men do not have permission to change the church in any way.

B. The Gospel preached by Paul

1. 1 Cor. 15:1-4
2. Death of Christ
3. Burial
4. Resurrection of Christ

C. After Acts 2 the church was spoken of as being in existence, not future, but past - presently in existence - Acts 2:47

D. Christ is the BUILDER of His church

1. He did not build Roman Catholicism
2. He did not build Hinduism, the Muslim Religion, Buddhism
3. He did not build Protestant denominationalism
4. He did not build a church for John the Baptist
5. He simply built His Church - the Church of Christ
 - a. Church = ekklesia = the called out
 - b. Description, not a title
 - c. Not a building

E. The church does not belong to any man nor any group of men. It belongs to Christ.

II. CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH which he built

A. Scriptures

1. Col. 1:18 "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

2. Eph. 1:22-23 "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."
3. When the church is pictured as a body then Jesus is the Head

B. Christ is the only head and He is the head of all things

1. A human body doesn't have 2 heads, nor does the church
2. The Bible teaches that we should have elders or bishops who have the oversight of the church under Christ who is its head.
3. Elders do not have any power to alter or change God's will.
4. Eph. 4:4 "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;"

C. Christ controls His Church through His word

1. Jn. 12:48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."
2. Through his inspired word he controls us - or is head over us.

III. CHRIST IS THE SAVIOUR OF HIS CHURCH

A. Scriptures -

1. Eph. 5:23 - saviour of the body "For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."
2. Saviour = saver of life, helper, delivered from various dangers like: sickness, infirmity, shipwreck, terror of wars and danger - a preserver

B. Christ became the saviour by his death

1. He was the atonement for our sins
2. Heb. 2:9 "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."
3. Heb. 9:26 "He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."
4. Christ gave himself up for the church because he died to make its existence possible
5. Acts 20:28 purchased with own blood "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

- C. Luke 2:10-11 Birth of Jesus - Saviour of our soul Luke 2:10 "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
1. It was announced by the angels
 2. They knew Jesus would be the saviour
 3. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21
- D. Our salvation was accomplished by our "great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of Good works." Tit. 1:13-14

CONCLUSION

1. How do you get into this Church of Christ ? How do we get into Christ?
 - a. Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
 - b. Rom. 6:3 "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"
 - c. This is the only way to get into Christ
 - d. Acts 2:47 "praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."
 - i. They had obeyed the gospel and were added to the church
 - ii. They had been baptized into Christ.
 - iii. The Lord adds the saved to the church

e. No salvation outside Christ

- i. Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- ii. The church is all the saved people
- iii. There is no other possibility.

2. The Church of Christ is not a human invention, but a divine institution.

- a. It did not originate with man but with God.
- b. It is not a denomination or sect, but the body of the believers in Christ.

3. The Church of Christ :

- a. The builder is Christ
- b. The head is Christ
- c. The Saviour is Christ

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