

## Christ and His Church

### Int.

1. Aim: To show the close relationship that exists between Christ and His Church.
2. Rm. 16:16 NKJV "...The churches of Christ greet you."
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
4. Some people have said - give me Jesus, but not the church
  - a. They say "Jesus yes, the Church No." Article in Newspaper: "Just Jesus, Please"
  - 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 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."
  - 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. 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 other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

B. Seven foundation principles of the N.T. Church

1. Death of Christ - 1 Cor. 15:1-4
2. Resurrection of Christ - 1 Cor. 15:1-4
3. Ascension of Christ - Acts 1
4. Sending of H.S. by Christ - Jn. 16:7
5. Baptism by His authority - Matt. 28:18-19
6. Baptism in name of Father, Son and H.S. - Matt. 28:19
7. Salvation in name of Christ - Acts 4:12

C. By the time we come to Pentecost (Acts 2) these 7 foundation stones have been laid

1. After Acts 2 the church was spoken of as being in existence, not future.
2. Acts 2:47 ASV "And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved."

D. Christ is the BUILDER of His church

1. He did not build Roman Catholicism
2. He did not build Protestant denominationalism
3. He did not build a church for John the Baptist
4. He did not build Hinduism or Islam.
5. He simply built His Church - the Church of Christ
  - a. Church - means the called out - not a church building
  - b. Church of Christ is a description not a title

## **II. CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH** which He built

### A. Scriptures

1. Col. 1:18a "And he is the head of the body, the church:"
2. Eph. 1:22-23 NKJV "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.

### C. Christ controls 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 - "...He is the saviour of the body."
2. Saviour [Savior] = saver of life, helper, delivered from various dangers like: sickness, infirmity, shipwreck, terror of wars and danger

## B. Christ became the saviour by his death

1. He was the atonement for our sins
2. Heb. 2:9b "...that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."
3. Christ gave himself up for the church because he died to make its existence possible
4. Acts 20:28 - purchased the church with His own blood
5. Heb. 9:26b "but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

C. Luke 2:10-11 Birth of Jesus "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

## 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. 2:13-14

#### **IV. BEING IN CHRIST**

##### A. How do we get into Christ?

1. Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
2. Rom. 6:3 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"
3. This is the only way to get into Christ

##### B. Acts 2:47 ASV "And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved."

1. They had obeyed the gospel and were added to the church
2. They had been baptized into Christ for the remission of sins.
3. Eph. 1:22-23 Church and body are the same thing

##### C. No salvation outside Christ

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

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Christ is the sinners only hope
  - a. We all have sinned - Rm. 6:23
  - b. Outside of Christ we have no hope - Eph. 2:11-13
  
2. The relationship of Christ to His church is:
  - a. Christ is the saviour
  - b. Because he was the atonement on the cross for our sins
  - c. And with his blood he purchased the church - or built his church
  
3. What is our relationship to Christ?
  - a. He can be your Saviour.
  - b. By being baptized into Christ you will be added to His Church.
  - c. This is the church that He built and over which He is the Head.
  - d. You cannot separate Christ from His Church because only by being in Christ can we have the salvation of our soul.