

## **“What is the Church of the Bible?”**

(What are the identifying marks of the Church?)\

### **I. Opening Remarks:** Read and tell about the gospel and go to Acts 2:38...42, 44, 46 and 47

Ac 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Ac 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Ac 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

#### **A. “Watch what happens next. “**

Ac 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2:43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles

Ac 2:44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

Ac 2:45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Ac 2:46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

Ac 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

#### **B. “Before this day the Church was talked about as being established or coming or going to be built Matt. 16:18. After this day the church is talked about (in the bible) in the present tense. IT is here!! Who were added to His church? Acts 2:38...People who obeyed his Gospel 1Cor. 15ff, Rom.6ff.**

1. In our towns and in our world there are lots of churches with lots of precious people...the church is people and I don't question harts the church is not the savior Christ is. Jesus paid for His church. Can we see his church? Does it have identifying marks so we can recognize His church? We some times get the idea that there is an umbrella idea that any church that is not Islam, Buddha, etc. is the church. That it is “Christian” like we are a Christian nation. We get the idea that all denominations are His church.
2. Mt 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My church**,

Joh 17:20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

Johh 17:21 "**that they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that **they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

“No denominations no divisions...ONE. “How can we all be one?

1co 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all **speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

Eph 4:4 There is **one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; Eph 1:22 And He put all things under His feet,

There are only two kinds of people....Saved & Lost. We have seen how people are saved Acts 2:38 -47 and what God placed them in. and we can see what they did in the church He placed them in.

Let's go to the Bible and ask God some questions and see if he answers them about His church.

## II. **The church has some different characteristics...or identifying marks.**

A. The church is an organism...or an organization. “If I were to start an organization here, let's say Rotary, Lyons, etc. We would want to know how to recognize that organization from one of the others. What is its name, what is its works etc? We would get the operating manual from the Rotary International to know the rules of order etc... when to meet what to say etc. how to join or become a member.

B. **Same with the church it is an organization by God's Word...the Bible.**

1. What is its name? **Ac 20:28** "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. , **1co 1:2** To the **church of God** which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

**Ro 16:16** Greet one another with a holy kiss. **The churches of Christ** greet you. **Eph 4:12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying **of the body of Christ.**

Ac 8:1 Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against **the church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

C. “Let's go back in time about 2000 years...to a few months after Pentecost 33 AD. If we met Paul on the street and was trying to find the church what would he say? “Paul I understand that you are a part of a new organization for Christ. But Paul which Denomination is that? What would Paul say?

**1co 1:10** Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there **be no**

**divisions among you**, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1. .What are the members called?

**Ac 20:7** Now on the first day of the week, when **the disciples came together to break bread**, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight

**2 1co 1:2** To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints**, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and

**3.Heb 2:11** For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason **He is not ashamed to call them brethren**,

**4. 1jo 3:1** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, **that we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does

**5. Ac 11:26** And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples **were first called Christians** in Antioch.

**IV. are we to do at our meetings? Is another question we might ask God?**

**A. Ac 2:42** And they **continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Ac 2:46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **Ac 2:47** praising God and having favor with all the people.

**B. Ac 20:7** Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread (take communion), Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

**C. Are there other identifying marks for the church...The #1 thing was Love.**

**A. Joh 13:34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. Remember this was not a suggestion. It is commanded that we love one another. This is an identifying mark of his church. Do we love one another?"

**V. They went every where preaching the word.**

**A. Acts 2...**3000 souls then 4500 more then by Acts chapter after the persecution came on the church the church grew until the number got lost. God intended for His church to be a church on the move growing.

**VI. How does one get into IT.?**

**A. By obedience to the gospel...that is being baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins.**

Ro 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Ro 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Ro 6:5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

Ro 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Ro 6:7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Ro 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

Ro 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

Ro 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

**B. Ac 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

**The Lord does the adding. To His Church. The one we see in Acts.**

**Closing. The church of the Bible is recognizable by its identifying marks. You get in to that church by obedience to His gospel Paul said, “Ro 1:16 for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek”. Its members will be recognized by their new commands “Love”, and “sharing of the gospel”. Its meetings on the first day of EVERY week to commune with God, to praise god and to be in favor with all the people. “Ac 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”, “Ac 2:44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,” “Ac 2:46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,”, “Ac 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”**