

The Church That JESUS BUILT

VISITOR PACKET



UNIVERSAL AUTHORITY:
Christ & Apostles - Matt. 28:18; Eph. 2:20; 3:5
LOCAL WORK
Elders (also called bishops and pastors)
- Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; 1 Tim. 3:1-7
Deacons - 1 Tim. 3:8-13
Saints - Phil. 1:1

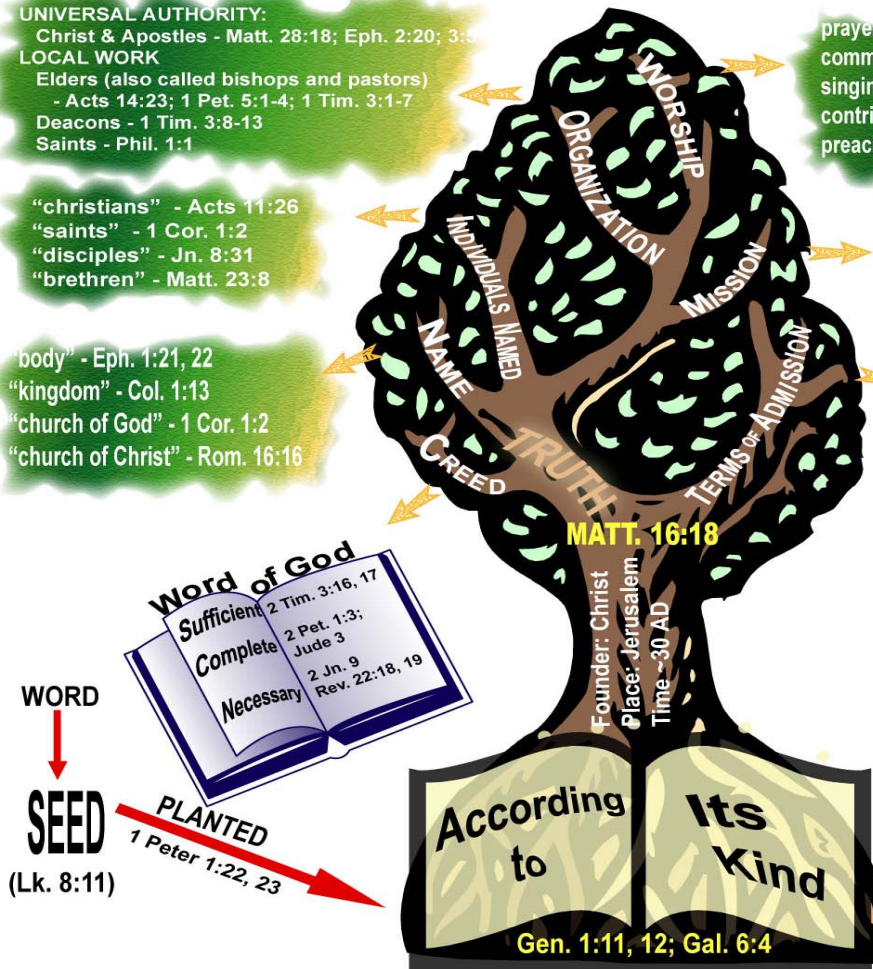
"christians" - Acts 11:26
"saints" - 1 Cor. 1:2
"disciples" - Jn. 8:31
"brethren" - Matt. 23:8

"body" - Eph. 1:21, 22
"kingdom" - Col. 1:13
"church of God" - 1 Cor. 1:2
"church of Christ" - Rom. 16:16

prayer - 1 Thess. 5:17; Acts 2:42
communion - 1 Cor. 11:23-30; Acts 20:7
singing - Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15; Eph. 5:19
contribution - 1 Cor. 16:2
preaching - 1 Tim. 4:1-5

Eph. 4:12
edification - Eph. 4:16
benevolence - Acts 6:1-6
evangelism - Rom. 10:15

hear - Rom. 10:17
believe - Mk. 16:16
repent - Acts 2:38
confess Christ - Acts 8:37
baptized - Rom. 6:3, 4



"But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted" (Matt. 15:13, NKJV)

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SUNDAY

Bible Classes: 1:00 PM


Worship: 2:15 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes: 7:30 PM
(6:30PM Nov. - Feb.)

. . . church and He defines what the terms of admission are. In order to become a member of the church that Jesus built, one must first hear God's word with a receptive heart (Rom. 10:17). Next, one must be convinced that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:37); confess that faith (Matt. 10: 32, 33); repent of personal sins (Acts 2:38); and be baptized in water for the remission of sins (Mk. 16:16). Only when these conditions are met is when forgiveness and reconciliation with God are realized. Baptism is not the end, but the beginning of a new and faithful life to God, ". . . be faithful until death. . ." (Rev. 2:10 see also 2 Cor. 5:17). Eternity is a long time; prepared for it today?

THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT



In explaining the *Parable of the Sower*, Jesus explained that the “seed” which produced fruit in the hearts of men was “. . . *the word of God*” (Lk. 8:11)—**The Bible**. When that word is planted in our hearts and we obey the truth, we are born again by the word of God (1 Pet. 1:22-23). Seed always reproduces after its own kind (cf. Gen. 1:11-12), therefore God’s seed can only produce children of God or Christians. We are certainly responsible for the “kind” of seed that we have sown in our heart, *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap”* (Gal. 6:7). Hence, if we want people to be born again by the word of God, we must be content with **only** the word of God. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus promised, “. . . *I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*” The apostle Paul recognized the fact that the church was built and that Jesus was head over it, *“He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”* (Eph. 1:22-23). There is “one body” (Eph. 4:4) and we can easily identify it today by the noticing the distinctive marks of the *first-century church*.

•**Creed:** The creed of the church is simply the **Word of God**. The Bible alone is sufficient for our obedience; it is complete with all truth to make us perfect before God. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doc-*

trine, for reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). We must abide in Christ’s doctrine in order have fellowship with him (1 Jn. 1:6, 7; 2 Jn. 9-11). The Bible issues severe warnings against those who add to or take away from its holy message (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19).

•**Names Of The Church:** Salvation is only through the name of Christ (Acts 4:12). Since the church is Christ’s bride, she wears his name. It is not surprising that congregations of Christians were referred to as “churches of Christ” (Rom. 16:16). Other terms were used to refer to Christ’s church including: the body, the family, the temple of God, the kingdom, the church of God, etc. All these terms stress the relationship of the church to God. Have you considered how so many “churches” today wear names that are neither found in the New Testament nor stress such a relationship to Christ?

•**Names of Members:** Members of Christ’s church were called “Christians” (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16). These first-century Christians were also called saints, disciples, and brethren, but they never took interest in wearing special title.

•**Organization:** The organization of the church that Jesus built is simple to understand. Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Col. 1:18) with all authority (Matt. 28:18). Next the apostles had ruling and

legislative authority as Jesus gave them this power through guiding them by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:13). Jesus commanded each congregation to have a plurality of elders who were also called bishops or pastors (Acts 14:23). These men are to meet the specific qualifications that are outlined in the Bible (cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4). Elders in the New Testament only ruled over one congregation which they were members of (1 Pet. 5:2). Deacons too have qualifications and serve under the eldership (1 Tim. 3:8-13). No person has authority to make new laws today, rather, we must obey the word that was given.

•**Worship:** According to the New Testament, the early church conducted five significant acts of worship: Prayer, Communion (Lord’s Supper), Singing, Contribution (give as prospered) and Teaching (Acts 2:42).

•**MISSION:** The mission of the church is not carnal as in entertaining or providing all men with physical needs. Paul stated, *“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking. . .”* (Rom. 14:17). The mission is threefold:

Edification: Teaching and strengthening the saints to live like they are saved and as dear children of God. Christians should be concerned about their conduct before God.

Benevolence: Giving assistance to Christians who are in need (locally and abroad).

Evangelism: Preaching the gospel to those who are lost in sin.

•**ADMISSION:** The Lord adds to His . . .