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What do True Bible Churches Believe and Teach? A CALL TO DEBATE

The Bible tells us that there is only one church (the “body” Eph. 1:22-23), Holy Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, and God and Father (Eph. 4:1-6). The oneness of God’s church is depicted in its member’s unity in belief (Rom. 15:5-6; Eph. 4:13). Jesus prayed that all believers would be one in faith through truth (Jn. 17:14-23). Those who’s beliefs differ from the one revealed truth are living in sin (I Cor. 1:10). The apostle Paul said that this one faith was delivered to him by the process of divine revelation (Gal. 1:11-12). No man has the authority to change God’s laws to fit his predetermined idea of religion (see Rev. 22:18ff). The truth is the standard whereby all of humanity will be judged in the end of times (Jn. 12:48). A true Bible believing church will thereby believe and teach nothing but the standard of truth. Said church will not believe and teach the imagination of men but rather lean solely on God’s word for their every action (see Hos. 5:10-11; Matt. 15:9; Titus 1:14). To organize a church differently than revealed in the New Testament is to have man’s church and not God’s. To give the church a work that is not revealed in God’s word is to establish a man’s church and not Christ’s. To place one’s eternal hope in things other than revealed in the Bible is to disassociate one’s self from God (I Jn. 1:5ff). The Lord, by divine revelation, tells us how to receive the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; I Jn. 1:9-10). When man seeks other modes of being forgiven and or saved he has set aside God’s word. The word of God tells us that there is only one law giver and when man tries to fill that role he errs greatly (cf. II Thess. 2:3ff). Let us examine a few things that the true church in the Bible believes and teaches.

The True church of Christ Believes and Teaches Hope for Sinners

The Bible records the creation of man and his fall. Sense the days of Adam and Eve all have fallen in sin and are thereby separated from God (Rom. 3:23; 5:12; Isa. 59:1-2). The hope of all sinners is to be saved from the consequence of sin. Jesus is the only answer to such a dilemma

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors. We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Continue to pray for **Wayne and Jim Duty (brothers of Tolene Witherspoon)** as they battle cancer in their bodies.

Keep **Nina Gray** in your prayers too. Nina continues to be confined to her bed so that the swelling in her knees can go down.

Welcome back **April Gresham**. April will be living here while Thomas fulfills his duties in Iraq.

Deirdre Wilson's new address:

2610 Old Iowa Park Rd. # 82
Wichita Falls, Texas 76306

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

(Acts 4:12). Jesus shed his blood upon the cross that man might have the opportunity of being forgiven of sins. The blood of Christ was the price of man's redemption from the bondage of sin (cf. I Pet. 1:18-19). This hope was known as early as the days of Adam and Eve (cf. Gen. 3:15), perpetuated through the seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:1ff), and realized in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:6, 16).

The True church of Christ Believes that man must obey God's Laws or Forever be Lost

Christ paid the price of man's redemption from the bondage of sin (Eph. 1:7). Those who obtain faith in Jesus Christ purpose within their heart to do all that God has commanded (Rom. 6:15-18). A divine principle of man's obedience in response to God's gracious redemption is established early in the scriptures. God redeemed Israel from the bondage of Egypt and thereby expected them to show forth their gratitude toward Him by their obedience to His laws (cf. Deut. 7:6-11). Likewise today, we show forth our love and appreciation toward God by keeping His commandments (see Deut. 7:9 and Jn. 15:9-12). The Bible explains to us that our faith and love for God is made evident by our acts of obedience (Heb. 11:1ff). James thereby said, "*faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself...*" (James 2:17).

The True church of Christ Believes and Teaches that People can be Forgiven of Sins

Under the Mosaic Law forgiveness was impossible to obtain (Heb. 7:18-19; 10:1ff). The Mosaic Law demanded perfection with no remedy for error (Gal. 3:10). The purpose of the Mosaic Law was to not only identify sin (Rom. 7:7) but to help man see his need for Jesus (i.e., true forgiveness) (Gal. 3:24). Today, man can obtain the forgiveness of sins through the Lord's "*law of faith*" (Rom. 3:23-28). The "*law of faith*" commands that a man (or woman) be baptized in order to receive the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Baptism puts the believer in contact with the blood of Jesus (see Heb. 9:14; I Pet. 3:20-21). After baptism, the Christian will find that he or she makes mistakes and sins. These sins will also be forgiven by following the law of Christ. The word of God tells us to repent, confess our sins, and asks for forgiveness (see Acts 8:22; I Jn. 1:9-10).

The True church of Christ Believes that there is a real Heaven and Hell

The apostle Peter said that there is an "*inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in **heaven** for you...*" (I Pet. 1:4). Salvation from the consequence of sin is termed God's grace (Titus 2:11; I Pet. 1:10) and is obtained by man's obedience to God (Titus 2:13 – 2:3; I Pet. 1:13-15). Hell, on the other hand, is obtained by one's lack of faith and obedience (see Matt. 23:29-39). Hell will be a place of eternal punishment, pain, and anguish (Rev. 20:10). The true Christian in

the church belonging to Christ believes and teaches the reality of heaven and hell.

The True church of Christ Believes God's Kingdom has been Established and that it will Continue into Eternity

The Old Testament foretold of an eternal kingdom that would never be destroyed (Dan. 2:44). This eternal kingdom would have a king (Isa. 9:6-7). When one turns to the New Testament we find that this kingdom is realized and established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1ff) and that Jesus reigned as the supreme king over his kingdom (Col. 1:13). The kingdom of God that the Old Testament foretold of is none other than the church of Jesus Christ (cf. I Thess. 2:12; II Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 2:41). The church is never termed Catholic, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterian, Mormon, Jehovah's Witnesses, Cowboy church, Lutheran church, church of the Nazarene, Pentecostal church, and any other such man made name. The Bible terms calls God's church, "*the church of Christ*" (Rom. 16:16) or the "*church of God*" (Acts 20:28).

The church is organized with elders (i.e., Bishops or Pastors) (Acts 14:23), deacons (Phil. 1:1), preachers (I Cor. 9:7ff), and members (Rom. 12:4ff). The organized church has the work of evangelizing the community and world (2 Cor. 11:8-9), edifying its members (Eph. 4:11-16), and providing care for needy saints (Rom. 15:25-26).

The church also assembles on the first day of the week to participate in five acts of worship. The church partakes of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-24). The church sings (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16 etc.), prays (Acts 2:42; I Tim. 2:8), gives of their means (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7), and participates in gospel preaching (Acts 11:26; 20:7).

The True church of Christ Believes that Jesus will come again to bring Faithful Saints to their Heavenly Home

The Bible tells us that at an unannounced time Jesus will appear again (Matt. 24:36-41). All the angels of heaven will be with him (Matt. 25:31). The voice of the archangel will sound as a mighty trumpet (I Cor. 15:50ff). Both the just and unjust shall be raised from the dead (Acts 24:15). At this time Jesus will judge the world by separating the righteous from the wicked (Matt. 25:31-46). This separation will be eternal (Rom. 2:3-7).

What do you Believe?

It seems somewhat odd that so many people profess a faith in Jesus Christ and his church yet do not pattern their life after the Lord's instructions. Jesus said, "*Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*" (Matt. 7:21-23). Those who work iniquity are those who walk in sin. True believers of Jesus Christ will take under consideration His law (Gal. 6:2). True church people understand that they are under law else sin would not even exist in the world (Rom. 4:15; I Jn. 3:4). True church people do not sweep their sins under the rug of religious complacency but rather call upon the name of Jehovah God for help (Acts 22:16). What do you believe? Do you believe the simple words of the Bible?

An Invitation to Debate these Points

Jude commands that Christians, "*Contend earnestly for the faith*" (Jude 3). If you disagree with this article would you be willing to contend earnestly against it as false teaching? I aver that those outside the body of Christ are in sin and the only way out of this situation is by baptism and faithful living. I aver that the Bible teaches unity of minds rather than diversity of beliefs. What do you believe? Would you be willing to study and or debate these issues? If so please do contact us. I would be happy to study or debate through e-mail, in person, or in front of the church members where you attend. Our objective is to save sinners and to exercise a spirit of love in doing so (Eph. 4:15).

John C. Robertson