

WHICH CHURCH SHOULD WE WORSHIP WITH?

STUDY THIS CAREFUL where your soul spends eternity may depend on it.

In Ezk.3:18,19. It says to the man of God , if you don't warn the people who are wrong, I will require his blood at thine hand, but if you warn him of his wrong ways and he still does not change, he shall die in his sins, but thou hast delivered thine own soul.

These are the verses that motivated me to write this lesson .We are living in a time , when most people do not desire to teach the truth of God's word. They do not want to hurt any ones feelings. This sounds good, but it does not save souls, not even our own, if we do not teach the truth. It is true that we will make many enemies by teaching the truth.

All we have to do is look at Jesus' teachings, we know that He taught the truth. The Jews were offended at the truth that Jesus preached, and they had him crucified.

Look at the Apostles. According to Jewish history , they were all killed but one, because they offended the people by preaching the truth .The only ones who will love you for teaching the truth are the obedient ones. This lesson will offend many people who read it. WHY? Because they do not have an open mind to what God's word says. They have their own mind already made up on what they believe and what they don't believe. My purpose in writing this lesson is not to please man, but to please God.

I want to ask a very important question, before I start on this lesson ,that might help to open the minds of those who read it.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ,OR DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT MAN SAYS?

Most people to day will say, you preach what I want to hear , and I will attend your church. The sad part about this is , it does not save anyone. A lot of people in the world today, will say, God is a God of mercy ,his mercy will not allow me to be lost. What they do not understand is, Gods mercy is being manifested every day that the world exists. Lets read it in 2 Pet.3:9 The Lord is

long suffering toward us , not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Now listen carefully, on the JUDGEMENT DAY, God then becomes a righteous judge. That means that God's mercy has come to an end. Let us read it in Rom12:19. VENGENGE is mine, I will repay saith the Lord. Again read in 2 Thess.1:7,8, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven, taking vengeance on those who are disobedient to the word of God. So from these scriptures we can easily see, that on Judgement Day God then becomes a God of wrath on the disobedient.

It is my prayer that these verses has opened your heart to want to know what is truth. REMEMBER this, on Judgement Day, it will not make any difference what man thinks about us.It is what God thinks about us that matters .

NOW TO THE LESSON THAT I WANT TO PRESENT. HOW MANY CHURCHES DID

JESUS BUILD? And old saying which we have heard many times is ,(attend the church of your choice.) QUESTION: Is this a wise statement , or would it be wiser to say,(attend the church of Christ choice.) There is another saying that we have all heard many times, and that is (It does not make any difference which church we belong to , because they all lead to the same place and that is heaven.)

QUESTION: Is that a wise saying? It would be much wiser to say what Jesus said in Matt. 7:14, strait is the gate and narrow is the way, that leads to heaven, and few there be who find it. One thing is for sure, Jesus did not believe that one church was just as good as another and all these different churches leads to heaven. NOTICE: What Jesus is saying in this verse. He says, STRAIT is the WAY. He does not say, strait is the ways , that leads to heaven. We must pay attention to what Jesus says, and NOT to what man says.

We are living in a time when people give very little attention to the church that Jesus built in A.D. 33. in Jerusalem. Today there are over 2,000 different churches in the world. They are all teaching different doctrines, and will not worship together and many more are being added to this number every year.

We read in 1 Cor.1:10-13 where Paul condemns division in the church. Please read these verses for your self, and you then will know what God thinks about it.They had divided into four divisions, God did not like it. QUESTION: If God did not approve of it then, what would cause us to believe that he will approve of it now? Because He says in verse ten , for us to be perfectly join together in the same mind and the same judgement. So we should easily see , if we were all of the same mind, there would be no cause for division. Very seriously now, this is not hard to understand.

What Paul is saying here in verses 10, I beg you do not start any more churches. This means there is only one church , past, present and future. A verse in Romans 3:4, says if we do not let it be a guide in all of our decisions on spiritual things, we will miss heaven. LISTEN carefully to this verse, Let God be true and every man a liar.

Now listen to what Paul has to say in Gal.1:10, For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet please men, I should not be

a servant of Christ. Paul is saying here, that we are a servant of man if, we listen to him for our learning.

You may not have realized it ,but we have a very serious problem in the world today, and that is ,which one of these many churches should we attend.

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, GO TO THE WORD OF GOD.

1. Who built the church? Matt.16:18, says Jesus did.
2. Who purchased the church? Acts 20:28 , says Jesus did.
3. What did it cost him? Eph.5:25, It cost him his life.
4. When did this church have its beginning? In A.D.33, Acts 2:47
5. Who is the head of the church? Eph.5:23 Jesus is.
6. Who is the church founder? Matt.16:18 , Jesus is .
7. Where did this church have its beginning? Jerusalem. Acts 1:4; also read Acts 2:1- 47.

QUESTION: What would the open minded person learn from these seven scriptures?

We would learn that any church that had its beginning, after A.D.33, would not be the one that Jesus built. We would also learn , that the one who founded this church, also gave His Life for it, in A.D.33.

QUESTION: What would the open minded person call this church? This should be very easy to answer. It should be called by the name of the person who built it, and bought it, and gave His life for it. This is so simple, any ten or twelve year old could come up with the right answer. It should be called the church of CHRIST. Now let us see if our answer is the same answer that the Bible gives. WE can find the answer in Romans 16:16, the church of CHRIST.

QUESTION: Now wouldn't it be a lot of help, if God would have said in His word, there is only one church. That would sure make it very simple. Well let us just go to the Bible and see for ourselves. In Eph.4:4, the Apostle Paul said, There is only one body. Well, that is not plain enough we need to have proof, that the body , is the church. READ Col.1:18 , It says that Christ is the body , the CHURCH. In Eph 1:22-23, it says , that Christ is head over all things to the CHURCH which is His BODY.Col.1:24, who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh, for His BODY' sake, which is the CHURCH. In 1 Cor.12:12, It says it, three times in that one verse, there is only one body.

In verse 20 of the same chapter, it says there are many members, but only one body.

In Col.3:15, it says let the peace of God reign in your hearts, to the which also you are called in one body, by the cross. This verse is very important, it tells us that the person who owns the true church, was hung on a cross. NOTICE: What Paul said in 1 Cor.1:13, when some of the Christians said, 'We are going to make Paul our leader,' Paul said to them, 'Was I crucified for you, or was you baptized in my name?' QUESTION: Why did the Apostle Paul answer them this way? He did this to show them the importance of which church to be a member of. Paul is saying, beware of these divisions that are arising in the body of Christ. Don't you know, you have to belong to a church, whose founder was crucified while building his church and you must also be baptized in the name of that founder.

Paul explains this to them, by saying, was I crucified for you, or were you baptized in the name of Paul?. Their answer would have to be no, to these two questions. The crucified one bought the church with his own blood.

NOW LOOK AT THE FIRST 10 CHURCHES

Let us see which church its founder was crucified in building it, and also if its members were baptized in the name of the founder.

First let us examine the church that we can read about in the Bible after Jesus died on the cross.

The first and only church we can read about is recorded in Acts 2:47, here it is called the Church. We find its name in Rom.16:16, the church of Christ. In Act 20:28, It is called the Church of God, which He purchased with His own blood. In Heb.12:23 it is called the church of the firstborn. Jesus is the only person who was once dead then rose from the dead, to never die again. So we can see, these are all descriptive names of the same church.

NOW WE WILL LOOK AT THE NEXT 9 CHURCHES.

Now notice the next 9 churches that came into existence. The Catholic church dates from 606 A.D., with its pope. The Greek Orthodox church had its beginning in 1054 A.D. The Luthern church 1530 A.D. The church of England 1534 A.D.

The Presbyterian church 1536 A.D. The Baptist church 1611 A.D. The Methodist church 1739 A.D. The Protestant Episcopal church 1789 A.D. there are hundreds of churches that have started since 1789. and there are many more being started ever year.

Now the thing to pay close attention to is this. All of these churches that started after A.D. 33 were founded by man. Now remember our guide

line, that the Apostle Paul said, for us to use, to know which is the one TRUE church that we read about in the Bible, The founder must be crucified, in the establishing of his church, and its members must be baptized in the name of its founder. 1 Cor.1:13.

. NOTICE: This is not true in any of the churches that had their beginning after A.D. 33.

QUESTION: How could Paul make it any easier to understand then this? I would like to ask you another question. When we stand before God to be judged, would we want to be a member of the church that His son built, or would we like to be a member of a church that you cannot read about in the Bible.

In Acts the second chapter, we read where there was 3,000 people baptized in one day for the remission of their sins.

QUESTION: What do we hear preachers saying today? They are saying, for us to choose the church of our choice and start attending there. We have already read many scriptures that say, Jesus built only one church, how does that leave us with a choice. It does not give us a choice. We need to be able to see what man is doing. He wants us to become a member of his church. Men are very proud of the churches that they have built, so they put the name of their church on their buildings, and then you will hear them say, 'Come down to my church if your want to be treated right.' Can we see anything wrong with these statement? Yes, we can because there is only one person who can make that statement and it be true and that is Jesus. Listen to Him in Matt.16:18.

I will build my church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. On the judgement day, if we want to go to heaven, we will have to belong to the church that Jesus built.

Please , let us read again what Jesus says about the judgement day in Matt.7:21-23, not everyone that saith LORD,LORD, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day LORD,LORD have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name we have cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works. And then I will profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU, DEPART FROM ME ,YOU WHO WORK INIQUITY.

QUESTION: Who would it have to be for Jesus to say , I never knew you. Wouldn't it be some one who had never been in His spiritual family, which is His church? If they had ever been in His church, He would have known them by name. Read it in John 10:27, My sheep hear my voice , and I know them and they follow me. We are talking about something that is a very

serious subject. The Apostle says in Phil.2:12, for us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

2 Tim.2:15, says for us to study, to show ourselves approved unto God. We must practice what the Christians in Berea did. In Acts 17:10,11, it says that they searched the scriptures daily, to see if the things that they were being taught, were true.

TWO IMPORTANT GUIDE LINES IN STUDING THE BIBLE

1. Read and study with an open mind.
2. All scripture must harmonize, with all other scripture, or we do not have the truth. These two things are a must, if we are going to understand the Bible.

Example: In acts 16:31, the Apostle Paul tells the Philippian jailer, "believe upon the Lord Jesus and thou shall be saved." Notice: When we take this verse alone, without harmonizing it with other verses, then the teaching would be, we are saved by faith only.

Now let us read Acts 2:38 and see what Peter tells his listeners to do to be saved. He told them to repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of their sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now the question is, how are we going harmonized these two verses. Both Apostles are speaking as they were being guided by The Holy Spirit. So we know, each writer is speaking the truth. To harmonize these two verses, all we have to do, is to know what the meaning of the word faith is. It means, obedience to all the words of Jesus concerning salvation.

QUESTION; What are the words of Jesus concerning salvation? In Luke 13:3, Jesus said "Except you repent you shall perish." In Mark 16:15,16, Jesus said, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. So we can easily see we cannot be saved by faith only, because of what Jesus said. He said we must believe, repent and be baptized and then our sins are washed away.

Remember this, there are no contradictions in the Bible. It will all harmonize, if we study with an open mind. If what we teach does not harmonize with all other scriptures, then we are guilty of teaching a false doctrine, and that is the reason, for all the divisions in the world today. Remember Paul condemns division in the body of Christ.

Please, do not let me influence your thinking. But I do want to influence you, to study the word of God, and find out for yourself, what is truth, then you go and share what you have learned with others.

There are many things that I would like to share with you, but time and space does not allow it. I would like to leave with you, something for you to search out in your Bible and see if they are true.

1. Is it scriptural to address spiritual leaders as a spiritual Father? No! It is not, read Matt.23: 9.
2. Is Bible baptism, sprinkling, pouring or a burial in water? It is a burial. Read Rom.6:4;Col.2:12.
3. Is there and example in the Bible where anyone was ever told to say the so called sinners prayer, to be saved? Answer is NO! Read Mark 16:15,16, Acts 2:28; Acts 8:1-40.
4. Should Christians partake of the Lord's supper on the first day of the week? Yes, they should. Read Acts 20:7.
5. Do we have and example of instrumental music being used in the worship service, in the New Testament? The answer is no. Read Col.3:16; Rom.15:9; Eph.5:19; 1 Cor.14:15.
6. Are sins forgiven the moment, people believe? Answer is no. Read Acts 2:38,Acts22:16.
7. Is baptism essential to be saved? Yes! Matt.28:19;Mark 16:15,16, Acts 2:38,Pet.3:21.

2 Tim.2:15, the Apostle Paul says, for us to study the word of God, to show ourselves approved unto Him.

John 8:32, It says, know the truth and the truth will set you free. Paul writes in Phil.2:12
work out your own salvation, with fear and trembling.

Please give this lesson some serious thought. If you can find any false teaching in this, please write us and show us the scriptures where we are wrong. If you find this lesson to be the truth, be sure and share it with your family and friends

In Christian Love,

Herb