

Let's Name this Church

Bible Reading: Matthew 16:13-18

Introduction

1. Here is a picture of a church building without a name on it.
2. As most of you already know, the church is the "called out". Therefore the individuals that meet inside of this building are "the church".
3. With that understood, I will give you some Bible facts about this church and you decide what name you would hang on this building to identify the members that meet here if you had the responsibility of naming it.

The church is the bride of Christ

Rom 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another-- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

1. Members of the church at Rome were dead to the Law so they could be married to Christ.
 - A. Usually, when a woman marries a man, what name does she take?
 - B. If the church is married to Christ, what name should the church take?

The church is the body of Christ

Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of **His body, which is the church,**

1. Paul's suffering was for the body of Christ, which is the church.
2. We can even see that Christ is the head of the church - his body.

Eph 1:22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body.....

Col 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

All spiritual blessings are in Christ

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

1. If all members of the church must be in Christ to receive spiritual blessings, what should they name the church of which they are members?

All are baptized into Christ

Gal 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ **have put on Christ**.

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

1. When a sinner is baptized in the name of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, he is baptized into Christ.
 - A. Is there another name mentioned in the Bible that an alien sinner is baptized into?
 - B. Should we baptize people into Christ and then ask them to wear another name?
 - Such as: **Lutheran**; **Presbyterian**; **Baptist**; Etc.
 - C. When we are baptized into Christ we have put on Christ meaning that one would now be called a CHRISTIAN!

We preach Christ

Acts 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.

1. The preaching of Christ is the only thing that will save the souls of men.

A. Some preach man made doctrines and use creeds and pass those things on as "essentials" for salvation.

2. Should we save men by preaching Christ to them, then ask them to wear another name besides Christ after they are saved?

A. Paul told the Corinthian brethren:

1 Cor 2:1-2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

3. Paul plainly and simply preached the gospel of Christ!

Christ is the Builder of the church

Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

1. Jesus promised Peter he would build his church.

Ps 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

Christ is the foundation of the church

Eph 2:19-20 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,**

1. Christian Jews and Gentiles are living stones in God's house. Christ with the apostles and prophets is the foundation of this spiritual house.

A. No man can lay any other foundation.

1 Cor 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, **which is Jesus Christ.**

1) Yet many religions base their doctrine taught - 1st on creed then perhaps the Bible.

Christ's blood purchased the church:

Acts 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.**

1. Paul commanded the Ephesian elders to feed the church that God purchased with his blood.

A. Peter said:

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but **with the precious blood of Christ,** as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

2. They were not redeemed from sin with gold or silver, but with the blood of Christ.

Christ saves

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and **He is the Savior of the body.**

1. Christ will save the people who are in his body, the church.
 - A. Christ came for all but only those who obey Him will see heavenly salvation!

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation **to all who obey Him,**

The church practices only Christ's doctrine

2 John 9-11 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in **the doctrine of Christ** does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

What Would You Name this Church?

1. If you said **“church of Christ”** then you are of the same mind as was the apostle Paul.

Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. The **churches of Christ** greet you.

- A. There are many denominations – but only one Lord’s church!

Conclusion

1. It is essential that you become a member of the church that Jesus bought with His own blood?

Invitation

1. To get into the Lord's church you must first hear the word of God which you have done today.

Romans 10:17

2. You then need to believe in Jesus. Do you believe in Jesus today?

Rom 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

3. Once you believe in Christ you then need to make a commitment in your life to serve Him.

A. You need to turn from the ways of the world and be determined to follow Christ.

Jesus said:

Luke 13:3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

4. Once determined to serve Christ, you must be willing to confess Him before men.

Matt 10:32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

Acts 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

