

# The New Testament Church

Matt 16:18

## Introduction:

- A. The New Testament church differs from modern concepts of church.
  - 1. To many church like a denomination - ours is right one
  - 2. To many church is body of Christ made up of all denominations.
  - 3. To many church is perpetual organization with line of succession. - "Same ax"
  - 4. To many church like a bus. Just jump on an go to heaven. As long as on right bus have it made.
- B. The New Testament church needs to be studied as to how it was established and how it spread.

## Discussion:

### I. The Church Was Established When Lord's Rule Was Established In Heaven.

- A. "*Mountain* of Lord's house" to be established and exalted above hills. (Isa. 2:1-5).
  - 1. Rule of Christ exalted above all other rule. (cf. v. 17).
  - 2. Rule or kingdom set above all other. (Dan. 2:44).
  - 3. Rule was to be set up in last days. (cf. Acts 2:16; Mk. 9:1).
- B. Jesus established as "Lord and Christ". (Acts 2:36)
  - 1. Received "the promise of the H.S.", i.e., the promised throne. (vs. 16,25,34-35).
  - 2. Received a kingdom. (cf. Luke 19:12,15).
  - 3. David's throne. (vs. 29-36).
- C. Jesus' authority established as supreme. (Mt. 28:18-20).
  - 1. With apostles as ambassadors. (cf. 2 Cor. 5:20; Mt. 16:19; 18:18).
  - 2. With their word as ruling instrument. (Jn. 14:25,26; 15:26,27; 16:12; 17:20; Rom. 10:6-17).

### II. The Church Was Established When Lord's Rule Was Established In Hearts Of Men And Women.

- A. Began in Jerusalem in day of Pentecost. (cf. Isa. 2:3)
  - 1. Baptized in his name (authority). (Acts 2:38; Mt. 28:18-20).
  - 2. Saved added to church. (Acts 2:47).
- B. Spread to rest of world. (cf. Acts 1:8; Col. 1:23)
  - 1. They are described as being:
    - a. "In Christ" (Gal. 3:26,27; Rom. 6:3).
    - b. "In one body". (1 Cor. 12:13).
    - c. "Redeemed"; "Reconciled"; "Saved"
  - 2. They are individually labeled:
    - a. "Christians" and "disciples" (Acts 9:26; 11:26,29).
    - b. "Believers", "saints", "brethren" (Acts 5:14; 1 Cor. 6:1,6).
  - 3. They are collectively labeled:
    - a. "The body" (1 Cor. 12:13,14).
    - b. "The church" (Eph. 1:22,23).
    - c. God's "people", "nation", "house", "priesthood" (1 Pet. 2:5-10; cf. 2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Tim. 3:15).
    - d. "Church" is group noun, like "herd", "covey", "pack", etc.
  - 4. They organized into local groups - churches. (Rom. 16:16; Acts 14:23)
    - a. Assembled for worship.
    - b. Collectively acted in teaching and helping.
    - c. Controlled membership - accepted, rejected, disciplined.
- C. Spread to all nations as men and women submitted to His rule.

## Conclusion:

- A. What is the church?
  - 1. People loyal to Christ as Ruler. Loyal to Him not a group of people that may wear His name.
  - 2. "Churches of Christ" are organized groups at various places ruled by Christ.
- B. What is restored in restoration?
  - 1. Not the rule of Christ in heaven, it has never been lost - cannot be destroyed.
  - 2. But, the rule established in hearts can be lost - need to be restored.
    - a. When that rule is established in hearts today produces same as first century.
    - b. When ruled by Christ will rid selves unscriptural doctrines, practices and systems.