

What Was Established on the Day of Pentecost?

Matt 16:18; Acts 2:47

Introduction:

- A. To well-drilled preschool class the answer is simple: Answer rote - Understand little.
- B. To many members of church the answer just as simple, but with very little more understanding.
 - 1. Think of church as a denomination - ours is right one.
 - 2. Think of church as perpetual organization with line of succession. - "Same ax"
 - 3. Think of church as a bus. Just jump on an go to heaven. As long as on right bus have it made.
- C. In the establishment of the church, two significant things happened:

Discussion:

I. Christ's Rule Was Established In Heaven.

- A. "**Mountain** of Lord's house" was established and exalted above hills. (Isa. 2:1-5).
 - 1. Rule or kingdom exalted above all other rule. (cf. v. 17; Eph. 1:20-23).
 - 2. Rule or kingdom was to be set up in last days. (cf. Acts 2:16; Mk. 9:1).
- B. Jesus was established as "Lord and Christ". (Acts 2:36)
 - 1. Received "the promise of the H.S." made through David as prophet (vs. 16,25,29-36).
 - 2. Received a kingdom. (cf. Luke 19:12,15).
- C. Jesus' authority was 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. (John 17:20; Rom. 10:6-17).

II. Christ's Rule Was Established On Earth. (Cf. Matt. 6:10)

- A. Many began to submit to his authority as they were taught his ways. (cf. Is. 2:3; Acts 1:8).
 - 1. Baptized by His authority ("in the name of...") and into name (authority). (Acts 2:38; Mt. 28:18-20).
 - 2. Translated into kingdom. (Col. 1:13,14).
 - 3. Added to church. (Acts 2:47).
- B. They were described as being:
 - 1. "In Christ" (Gal. 3:26,27; Rom. 6:3).
 - 2. "In one body". (1 Cor. 12:13).
 - 3. "Redeemed"; "Reconciled"; "Saved"
- C. They were called:
 - 1. Individually: Believers (Acts 5:14), Saints (1 Cor. 6:1), Disciples (Acts 9:26), Christians (Acts 11:26,29).
 - 2. Collectively: Body (1 Cor. 12:13,14), House, Priesthood, Nation, People (1 Pet. 2:5-10; cf. 2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Tim. 3:15), Church (Eph. 1:22,23).
 - a. "Church" from *ekklesia* means a called out assembly.
 - b. "Church" is group noun, like "herd", "covey", "pack", etc. (cf. 1 Cor. 12:14)

Conclusion:

- A. Again, we ask: "**What was established...?**" - The answer is still, "**The church!**"
- B. But, we must ask, "**What is the church?**"
 - 1. People who accept the rule of Christ established in heaven.
 - a. When church ceases to be ruled by Him it no longer His church. (Ill: "Tom, Dick and Harry")
 - b. Our loyalty is to Christ and not a group of people that may wear His name.
 - 2. Local church is an organized group in a given place being ruled by Christ.
- C. Further, we ask, "**Does one have to be in the church to be saved?**"
 - 1. Does one have to be among those who submit to the rule of Christ to be saved?
 - 2. Does one have to be among the saved to be saved? (Acts 2:47; cf. Acts 5:14).