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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

THE CURCH OF CHRIST

The origin and nature of the church of Christ is one of the most misunderstood subjects on the planet. The vast majority of people in our nation equate the church with the multiplicity of religious denominations that permeate our world. However, what the Bible teaches about the church of Christ stands in stark contradiction to this mistaken view.

The term: church of Christ” is not a denominational designation, like Baptist Church or Methodist Church, but simply describes the ownership of the church that was promised and built by Jesus Christ - *“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build **My church**”* (Matthew 16:18). The church of which we read in the New Testament belongs to Christ who purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). He is the Head of His church, *“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to **be head** over all things to **the church**, which is His body.....”* (Ephesians 1:22-23). Consider that the church is called “His body.” This is significant because there are so many different kinds of religious bodies in our world teaching different and conflicting doctrines. The New Testament teaches that the church of Christ is the spiritual body of Christ and there is only **ONE BODY** not many different kinds of bodies! Ephesians 4:4 reads, *“There is **one body**.”* Every person saved by the blood of Jesus this side of the cross is added by Jesus Christ to His church. *“And **the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**”* (Acts 2:47).

The church of Christ has always been a part of God’s plan to save man from the eternal consequences of sin. It exists according to His “eternal purpose” (Ephesians 3:10-11). It was established in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost following the death and resurrection of Jesus as predicted in prophecy (Isaiah 2:1-3; Acts 2). Any so-called church established at a later date or in another place cannot be the church of Christ.

We plead with each reader to carefully examine what the New Testament teaches about the church of Christ. Your eternal welfare depends upon a proper understanding of this vital subject. It is our prayer that each one will understand fully the origin and the nature of the church of Christ and, through humble submission to the commands of the Lord to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24), repent of sin (Acts 17:30-31), confess faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10) and immersed into the death of Jesus (Acts 2:38; romans 6:3-4), be added by the Lord to His church, the church of Christ.