

Eight Reasons To Choose the church of Christ

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 16:18 “AND I SAY UNTO THEE, THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL [HADES] SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.”

Introduction

When I was a young man the religious world that claimed to worship God, that claimed to be Christian, consisted of about 325 different churches, about 325 different major denominations. But oh, has that changed. When we look around us today, only some 40 or 50 years later we see that they have multiplied by the thousands and even tens of thousands. All have different founders. All began at different times and places. Each wears a name different than the others. Each worships in its own way. Denominations differ from one another in their organization. They teach different doctrines. They teach different ways to be saved.

It seems that all a man has to do these days is to find a place to meet, hang out a sign, gather a few followers, and lo and behold we have a new church. Among my internet Bible students I have those who are members of the Amazing Grace Church, the African Inland Church, the River of Life Church, the Deliverance Church and many others. In our city we have something called the Spirit Wind Ministries Church, The Abundant Faith Temple, Beautiful Gate Ministries, and more. And the number of these organizations increases daily. It is strange indeed that those who claim to believe in the Bible will accept such confusion. Millions never question it. Others excuse it saying: “We are all going to Heaven. We are just going by different roads.” They ignore the Word of God in **Matthew 7:12ff**. Some say: “One church is as good as another.” Still others tell us to “Join the church of your choice.”

But what does the Word of God say? How many churches has Jehovah God created? Let us turn to the Word of God and see.

Jesus Christ is It's Builder

Matthew 16:18 “AND I SAY ALSO UNTO THEE, THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.”

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to redeem mankind with His blood and to fulfill God's seed promise. Jesus Christ, the one who now sits on the right hand of Jehovah God in heaven said that He would “BUILD MY CHURCH”. The word “CHURCH” here is singular, He only built one, there is only one true church; it is the church that Jesus Christ said is “MY CHURCH”, it is the church of Christ. All others are man made imposters.

Jesus prayed that all who believe in Him would be one, speaking of his disciples:

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John 17:20-21 “NEITHER PRAY I FOR THESE ALONE, BUT FOR THEM ALSO WHICH SHALL BELIEVE ON ME THROUGH THEIR WORD; THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE; AS THOU, FATHER, ART IN ME, AND I IN THEE, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IN US: THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT THOU HAST SENT ME.”

The Apostle Paul rebuked the church at Corinth for being divided:

“NOW I BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, BY THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT YE ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING, AND *that* THERE BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU; BUT *that* YE BE PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SAME MIND AND IN THE SAME JUDGMENT.” **I Corinthians 1:10**

Jesus Christ did not promise to build many denominations! He promised to build his church! He died for His church! In Troas the Apostle Paul instructed the elders of the church at Ephesus:

“TAKE HEED THEREFORE UNTO YOURSELVES, AND TO ALL THE FLOCK, OVER THE WHICH THE HOLY GHOST HATH MADE YOU OVERSEERS, TO FEED THE CHURCH OF GOD, WHICH HE HATH PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.” **Acts 20:28**

No where does the Word of God say that Jesus built a denomination! No where does the Word of God say that Jesus died for any church established by man! He died for only one church, the one he bought with his own blood. The number one reason to choose the church of Christ is because it is the church that Jesus built!

Jesus Christ is its Head

Secondly we must choose the church of Christ because Jesus Christ is its head. He is its ruler! He is its overseer and governor. Just like our heads rule and control our bodies Jesus Christ rules from the right hand of God and rules and controls His body through His divine revelation. How do we know that the church is the body of Christ? Because the Word of God tells us:

“GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY” **Ephesians 1:17**
“...HATH PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET, AND GAVE HIM TO BE THE HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH, WHICH IS HIS BODY, THE FULNESS OF HIM THAT FILLETH ALL IN ALL.” **Ephesians 1:22-23**

And then a little further on in his epistle to the church of Christ at Ephesus Paul writes:

Ephesians 4:4 “*There is* ONE BODY, AND ONE SPIRIT, EVEN AS YE ARE CALLED IN ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING;”

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So the church is the body of Christ! There is only one body! There is only one head, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Jesus Christ is the Savior of only one body, His body! The church of the living God, Jesus Christ our Lord! Further proof!

Ephesians 5:23 “FOR THE HUSBAND IS THE HEAD OF THE WIFE, EVEN AS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH: AND HE IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE BODY.”

The inspired Apostle, using God’s plan for marriage as an example declares that just as the husband in a godly marriage is to be the head of the wife, Christ is the head of the church. But he says something else doesn’t he? He is also the Savior of the body, what body, that body, the church of which he is head. If we want to be saved, we must be in His body. We cannot be saved in a church that is ruled by a pope, a church that is governed by a synod or a council of men, or a conference or a convention. We cannot be saved in a man-made church! We can only be saved in the church whose builder and maker is God through his Son Jesus Christ! The church to which God adds those being saved (**Acts 2:47**). We need to chose the church of Christ because:

It is the church of the Bible

When the Apostle Paul wrote his epistle to the church of Christ in Rome what did he tell them? At the end of his letter while sending greetings and salutation to various brothers and sisters he wrote:

Romans 16:16 “SALUTE ONE ANOTHER WITH AN HOLY KISS. THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU.”

“THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU!” Not the Catholic denomination, not the Baptist denomination, not any of the thousands of man made churches because none of them existed. Almost another 250 years went by before there was another church on the face of the earth except the church of Christ. Most of those we see today were established during our lifetime. The apostle Paul writing by the inspiration of Jehovah God said “THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU”!

But you say he wrote churches, plural, that’s more than one. Paul was writing to the church at Rome, he found certain disciples, a congregation of the Lord’s church, the church of Christ at Ephesus (**Acts 19**), he established a congregation at Thessalonica (**Acts 17**), another congregation at Corinth (**Acts 18**) and more; but while they were different congregations, different assemblies, in different cities, in different countries even; they were all part of the one church, the church that Jesus built. Because when they obeyed the commandments of God and had their sins washed away they were added to the church of Christ by God. That church to which God adds the saved (**Acts 2:47**) is the church of Christ.

The coming of the church of Christ was foretold in prophecy:

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Isaiah 2:2-3 “AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, *that* THE MOUNTAIN OF THE **LORD’S HOUSE** SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND SHALL BE EXALTED ABOVE THE HILLS; AND ALL NATIONS SHALL FLOW UNTO IT. AND MANY PEOPLE SHALL GO AND SAY, COME YE, AND LET US GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN OF THE **LORD**, TO THE HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB; AND HE WILL TEACH US OF HIS WAYS, AND WE WILL WALK IN HIS PATHS: FOR OUT OF ZION SHALL GO FORTH THE LAW, AND THE WORD OF THE **LORD** FROM JERUSALEM.”

The coming of the church of Christ was also foretold in the prophecy of Joel. Please observe the following from the Word of God:

Just before he ascended back to heaven Jesus the Christ met with his apostles and gave them their instructions for the beginning of His church:

Acts 1:4-5 “AND, BEING ASSEMBLED TOGETHER WITH *them*, COMMANDED THEM THAT THEY SHOULD NOT DEPART FROM JERUSALEM, BUT WAIT FOR THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER, WHICH, *saith he*, YE HAVE HEARD OF ME. FOR JOHN TRULY BAPTIZED WITH WATER; BUT YE SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY GHOST NOT MANY DAYS HENCE.”

Jesus told them to wait for the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit to come upon them to provide them with the Word of God as he had promised. Just as the prophet of God named Joel had prophesied so many years before:

Joel 2:28 “AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS AFTERWARD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS:” **v.32** “AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, THAT WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE **LORD** SHALL BE DELIVERED: FOR IN MOUNT ZION AND IN JERUSALEM SHALL BE DELIVERANCE, AS **THE LORD** HATH SAID, AND IN THE REMNANT WHOM THE **LORD** SHALL CALL.”

And the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:4 “AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, AND BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE.”

These Galilean fishermen started to be able to speak in other languages. Other languages that they had not learned so that the people that were in Jerusalem from all over the Roman Empire to celebrate the Day of Pentecost could hear the gospel of Christ in the language in which they were born. The Apostle Peter speaking by the direction of the Holy Spirit said that this was the fulfillment of the words of the prophet Joel:

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Acts 2:16-18 "BUT THIS IS THAT WHICH WAS SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET JOEL; AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAITH GOD, I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH: AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS: AND ON MY SERVANTS AND ON MY HANDMAIDENS I WILL POUR OUT IN THOSE DAYS OF MY SPIRIT; AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY:"

Yes, the church of Christ is the church of the Bible because it was built by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It was planned for the redemption of mankind from sin from the very beginning of time in Genesis 3:15 when God made the seed promise. It is verified to us by the revelation of God through the Word of God, the God Breathed words which make up all scripture, the Bible. But there is more.

It is the church to Which God adds the Saved

When the Apostle Peter, using the keys to the kingdom given to him by Jesus Christ in **Matthew 16:19** opened the door to His church for the first time God added to that church those that were being saved. Observe with me please. When Peter preached that powerful sermon on that occasion those men facing him were sinners. And they weren't just ordinary, every day sinners. They were guilty of causing the only begotten Son of God to be crucified and killed. These are God's words, given by the Holy Spirit and spoken by Peter:

Acts 2:36 "THEREFORE LET ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL KNOW ASSUREDLY, THAT GOD HATH MADE THE SAME JESUS, WHOM YE HAVE CRUCIFIED, BOTH LORD AND CHRIST."

He is the Christ, He is the Messiah, He is the one anointed by God and appointed to come and relieve mankind of their bondage of sin, he is the one that brought the salvation for which the prophets searched for hundreds of years (**I Peter 1:10**), he is man's redemption from sin. And when these men heard God's words that Peter delivered:

"...THEY WERE PRICKED IN THEIR HEART, AND SAID UNTO PETER AND TO THE REST OF THE APOSTLES, MEN *and* BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?" **Acts 2:37**

These men realized the greatness of their sin. They had crucified the Messiah that God had promised and now they fear for their souls. What did Peter tell them? Did Peter tell them to just pray the sinner's prayer and God forgive and accept them? Did Peter tell them to just accept Christ as their personal Savior? Did Peter tell them that they would have to wait until the congregation or the council could consider their request and vote on them before they could become a part of Christ's church?

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Did Peter tell them that they were already saved and at sometime convenient they could be baptized and join his church? No, Peter didn't tell them anything like that at all. Peter speaking through the guidance of the Holy Spirit told them this:

Acts 2:38-39 "...THEN PETER SAID UNTO THEM, REPENT, AND BE BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, AND YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST. FOR THE PROMISE IS UNTO YOU, AND TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND TO ALL THAT ARE AFAR OFF, *even* AS MANY AS THE **LORD** OUR GOD SHALL CALL."

And then what happened? They continued in the Apostle's doctrine, their body of teaching as the Holy Spirit directed them and in fellowship and in prayer. God added them to His church, the church that Jesus built, the church that belongs to Christ, the church of Christ:

Acts 2:47 "...AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY SUCH AS SHOULD BE SAVED."

I can't emphasize that enough. God added those that were saved to the church. God added them to Christ's church, the church that Jesus built, the church of Christ! My friend, if you have not obeyed the commandments to repent of your past sins, confess before men that you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and been baptized for the remission, the removal, the redemption of your soul from your sins you are not saved and God has not added you to His church.

It is the church that Teaches the Bible Only!

The fifth reason that you should chose the church of Christ is because that it teaches the Bible only, nothing more, nothing less and nothing else. Any church that teaches man made doctrines is not the church that Jesus built, it is not the church of the Bible and it is not the church to which God adds the saved. It is not the church of Christ it doesn't matter what the sign on the building says. Jesus said:

"...I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME." **John 14:6**

And a little further on in the same context, the same chapter of the Gospel of John He tells his apostles:

John 14:26 "BUT THE COMFORTER, *which is* THE HOLY GHOST, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME, HE SHALL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, AND BRING ALL THINGS TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE, WHATSOEVER I HAVE SAID UNTO YOU."

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The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, would guide them to teach those things that Jesus had taught them for three years. He would direct and guide them "INTO ALL TRUTH" **John 16:13**. He would give them the words that they are to say, He would give them the words that they were to write. That revelation ended with the end of the book of Revelation that was completed by John the Apostle; the apostle that Jesus Loved before 100 AD and nothing has been added since. What we have in the New Testament is the law of God for this age and we are to teach and preach no other commandments. The Old Testament is preserved to be used for our learning the nature of God, the record of his promises, and many other things as the Apostle Paul tells us in **Romans 15:4**. But it is the New Testament that is the "LAW OF CHRIST" (**Galatians 6:2**).

The Bible is inspired. It is God breathed. It is the Word of God:

II Timothy 3:16-17 "ALL SCRIPTURE *is* GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, AND *is* PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE PERFECT, THOROUGHLY FURNISHED UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS."

We are forbidden to alter it in any way, shape, fashion or form (**Deuteronomy 4:2, Deuteronomy 12:32, Proverbs 30:6, Revelation 22:19**). We are not to add to it, we are not to take anything from it. The Proverb writer warns those who would add or delete from the Word of God, that God will reprove them and they will be found as liars. The beloved Apostle John warns all mankind for all times since his writing:

Revelation 22:18-19 "FOR I TESTIFY UNTO EVERY MAN THAT HEARETH THE WORDS OF THE PROPHECY OF THIS BOOK, IF ANY MAN SHALL ADD UNTO THESE THINGS, GOD SHALL ADD UNTO HIM THE PLAGUES THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK: AND IF ANY MAN SHALL TAKE AWAY FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK OF THIS PROPHECY, GOD SHALL TAKE AWAY HIS PART OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE, AND OUT OF THE HOLY CITY, AND FROM THE THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK."

When we understand this; then it is easy for us to understand the Word of God recorded by the Apostle Paul in his writing to the church of Christ that was at Galatia.

Galatians 1:6-8 "I MARVEL THAT YE ARE SO SOON REMOVED FROM HIM THAT CALLED YOU INTO THE GRACE OF CHRIST UNTO ANOTHER GOSPEL: WHICH IS NOT ANOTHER; BUT THERE BE SOME THAT TROUBLE YOU, AND WOULD PERVERT THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. BUT THOUGH WE, OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN, PREACH ANY OTHER GOSPEL UNTO YOU THAN THAT WHICH WE HAVE PREACHED UNTO YOU, LET HIM BE ACCURSED."

And this last verse is so important and it is so necessary for us to understand that God has it repeated:

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Galatians 1:9 “AS WE SAID BEFORE, SO SAY I NOW AGAIN, IF ANY *man* PREACH ANY OTHER GOSPEL UNTO YOU THAN THAT YE HAVE RECEIVED, LET HIM BE ACCURSED.”

If any man, even an angel from heaven comes and preaches any gospel, any law, any commandment different from the Word of God he will be cursed of God and punished eternally in a devils hell.

Because it is the church that Worships As God Commanded

The sixth reason to choose the church of Christ is because it is the church that worships God as God has commanded.

One of the most popular perversions of the gospel of Christ is for men to offer up worship to God the way they want to, the way that makes them feel good, the way that they think is right and then they expect God to just accept it. One of the lessons that we learn from the Old Testament, back at the very beginning of time, is that God wants to be worshipped the way that He has instructed man to worship, and not in any other way. Observe with me please:

Genesis 4:3-5 “AND IN PROCESS OF TIME IT CAME TO PASS, THAT CAIN BROUGHT OF THE FRUIT OF THE GROUND AN OFFERING UNTO THE **LORD**. AND ABEL, HE ALSO BROUGHT OF THE FIRSTLINGS OF HIS FLOCK AND OF THE FAT THEREOF. AND THE **LORD** HAD RESPECT UNTO ABEL AND TO HIS OFFERING: BUT UNTO CAIN AND TO HIS OFFERING HE HAD NOT RESPECT. AND CAIN WAS VERY WROTH, AND HIS COUNTENANCE FELL.”

God honored and accepted Abel’s worship but God didn’t accept Cain’s worship. Why? Because Abel worshipped by faith:

Hebrews 11:4 “BY FAITH ABEL OFFERED UNTO GOD A MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE THAN CAIN, BY WHICH HE OBTAINED WITNESS THAT HE WAS RIGHTEOUS, GOD TESTIFYING OF HIS GIFTS: AND BY IT HE BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH.”

God testified that Abel was righteous. Why? By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice, by faith Abel worshipped God. Where did that faith come from?

Romans 10:17 “SO THEN FAITH *cometh* BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.”

Abel worshiped God as he knew God required because he listened to what God had commanded. Cain did not, Abel’s worship was accepted, Cain’s was not. It is the same today. Jesus said:

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“GOD IS A SPIRIT: AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.” John 4:24

In order for God to accept our worship, we must worship him in spirit in the right frame of mind, for the right purpose, for the right reasons and we must worship him in truth. What is truth? Jesus said **“THY WORD IS TRUTH” John 17:17**. We must worship at God has commanded, nothing else will be accepted.

In the church of Christ in the first century the apostles taught that worship consisted of prayer (**I Timothy 2:1-8**), songs, hymns and spiritual songs (**Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 13:15**), the Lord’s Supper (**Matthew 26:26-29, Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 11:23-26**), giving of their means (**I Corinthians 16:1-2**) and preaching and teaching the Word of God (**Acts 2:42, 20:7; Matthew 28:20**). In a congregation of the church of Christ today you will find the same, no more and no less.

There will be no instruments of music because they were added by the Catholic Church hundreds of years after Christ died. There will be no choirs, no praise teams, no swinging, swaying or dancing in the aisles. There will be nothing beyond the simple honor toward God and his Son Jesus Christ that was authorized by God in the scriptures and practiced in the first century church of Christ. If you find something that calls itself a church of Christ and practices any of these man-made additions to God’s worship be assured that it is not what it claims to be. It is not the church of Christ, it doesn’t matter what they may have on their sign or their building. They have abandoned the commandments of God and he has disowned them.

Choose the Church of Christ Because It follows God’s Pattern in Organization

The very first change from God’s plan for the organization and governing of His church was man’s meddling with its organization. About 300 AD, about 200 years after the revelation of God was closed by the Apostle John, men in power decided that they should rule over more than one congregation. Thus the concept of the archbishop was born as the senior bishop or ruler over the elders or bishops of the congregations of a city or a particular area. This departure from God’s pattern continued until the Catholic Church came into existence with its pope, its cardinals, archbishops, and all manner of layers of government that God didn’t authorize, God doesn’t condone and that will send multiplied millions of foolish people who will not investigate for themselves to a devil’s hell.

What is God’s pattern? What did God authorize through His revelation? What does Jehovah God require who will reward the faithful and punish the unfaithful in unquenchable fire.

As we studied a little earlier in this lesson Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God is the head of His church, and as we will see in a few moments he is King over His kingdom which is the church. While there is but one body, the Christians in each area met together to worship. Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome **“THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU” (Romans 16:16)**. He was not speaking of different denominations, but of the assemblies of Christians, congregations of the church of Christ in each area. All of these congregations together make up the body of Christ.

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Paul addressed the saints at Corinth as “THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH” (**1 Corinthians 1:2**). He asked the elders of the church at Ephesus to meet with him in Miletus (**Acts 20:17**).

He spoke of “THE CHURCHES OF GALATIA” meaning the assemblies of Christians in each city in the Roman Province of Galatia. (**Galatians 1:2**)

Except for Christ who rules in Heaven from the right hand of God, there is no central organization of the one, true, church. Each congregation is self-governing and independent of all the others. Each has its own elders who are also called bishops, overseers, pastors, or shepherds. If a congregation does not have men who meet God’s requirements to be appointed as elders then by default the men of the congregation are tasked with the day to day governing of their local congregation. But God’s plan is for the local congregation to be ruled by elders.

The church at Antioch sent a contribution to the elders of the church in Jerusalem (**Acts 11:29-30**). Paul and Barnabas “APPOINTED ELDERS IN EVERY CHURCH” (**Acts 14:23**). Paul called the elders of the church at Ephesus (**Acts 20:17**). Paul wrote to the saints in Philippi “WITH THE BISHOPS AND DEACONS” (**Philippians 1:1**). He gave God’s qualifications for those men who should serve in that office **I Timothy 3:1-9**, **Titus 1:5-9**). And lastly we see the Apostle Peter, the one to whom Jesus Christ gave the keys to His kingdom write this for our instruction:

I Peter 5:1-2 “THE ELDERS WHICH ARE AMONG YOU I EXHORT, WHO AM ALSO AN ELDER, AND A WITNESS OF THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST, AND ALSO A PARTAKER OF THE GLORY THAT SHALL BE REVEALED: FEED THE FLOCK OF GOD WHICH IS AMONG YOU, TAKING THE OVERSIGHT *thereof*, NOT BY CONSTRAINT, BUT WILLINGLY; NOT FOR FILTHY LUCRE, BUT OF A READY MIND;”

Yes, the church of Christ, the church that Jesus built, the church of the Bible, is overseen by devout men, who meet the qualifications that the Word of God has given us, sought out by the local congregation and appointed according to the precepts of God. There is no pope, or papa, there are no archbishops, there are no conventions, councils, synods or conclaves that rule the church of Christ it is Christ Jesus from His place at the right hand of God through His Word and godly men of the location congregation.

The Church of Christ IS the Kingdom of God

Lastly you must chose the church of Christ if you want to enter the kingdom of God because it IS the KINGDOM OF GOD. Many of the false teachers of this world would have to believe that God failed, that Jesus Christ failed. Their doctrine says that when Jesus came to the earth the first time, He intended to set up His kingdom. Since the Jews rejected Him, Jesus set up a temporary institution, the church, instead.

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These men, teaching a doctrine called premillennialism. They teach that since God failed the first time that Jesus Christ will return, establish his kingdom and rule the earth from the city of Jerusalem for 1000 years. God failed – what could be more ludicrous than to claim that Jehovah God who created the universe, provides life and substance to mankind could fail.

Speaking of the kingdoms or empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome God through the pen of the prophet Daniel said:

“AND IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS SHALL THE GOD OF HEAVEN SET UP A KINGDOM, WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED: AND THE KINGDOM SHALL NOT BE LEFT TO OTHER PEOPLE, BUT IT SHALL BREAK IN PIECES AND CONSUME ALL THESE KINGDOMS, AND IT SHALL STAND FOR EVER.” Daniel 2:44

Speaking to his disciples words that were recorded by Mark in the Gospel that bears his name Jesus Christ said:

“...VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT THERE BE SOME OF THEM THAT STAND HERE, WHICH SHALL NOT TASTE OF DEATH, TILL THEY HAVE SEEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD COME WITH POWER.” Mark 9:1

Now does that sound like Christ will come back to this earth and establish his kingdom in Jerusalem and reign for 1,000 because he failed the first time? God said that the Kingdom of God would be established during the rule of the Roman kings that followed the empire of Alexander the Great of Greece. Jesus said that there were people listening to his voice on the occasion of **Mark 9:1** who would live to see the Kingdom of God come with “POWER”. And it did just that when the “POWER” of the Holy Spirit was manifested in the Apostles of Jesus Christ on the day of Pentecost, and the Apostle Peter preached the first Gospel sermon. And we know further what Jesus told Pilate:

“JESUS ANSWERED, MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD: IF MY KINGDOM WERE OF THIS WORLD, THEN WOULD MY SERVANTS FIGHT, THAT I SHOULD NOT BE DELIVERED TO THE JEWS: BUT NOW IS MY KINGDOM NOT FROM HENCE.” John 18:36

The church of Jesus Christ, is the Kingdom of God, Christ is its king.

These are eight reasons to chose the church of Christ. Because Jesus Christ is its builder. Because Jesus Christ is its Head. Because it is the church of the Bible. Because it is the church to which God adds the saved. Because it is the church that teaches the Bible and the Bible only. Because it is the church that worships God as He has commanded. Because it is the church that follows God’s pattern in its organization. Because it is the Kingdom of God both on earth and in heaven.

And entrance into the kingdom into His church is simple and plain:

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Hear the Word of God preached or taught – **Romans 10:17**

Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God – **Mark 16:15-16, Hebrews 11:6**

Repent of all of your past sins – **Luke 13:3, 5**

Confess that you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God – **Romans 10:9-10**

Be baptized in water to wash away your sins – **Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, I Peter 3:21**