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### The Glory And Dignity of the Church Christ Established According to the New Testament Scriptures

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W.F. Westapher, C.A.

CENTER FOR RESTORATION STUDIES  
ADILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# THE GLORY AND DIGNITY OF THE CHURCH CHRIST ESTABLISHED

*According to the*  
**New Testament**  
**Scriptures**



*Fourth Edition*

*Prepared and Compiled by*  
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100

183

## Ten Reasons Why the CHURCH OF CHRIST Is Worth Investigating

1. You may read about it in the Bible. Rom. 16:16.
2. It has no creed but Christ, binds no name on its members but Christ.—Acts 11:26, 1 Peter 4:16.
3. It speaks where the Bible speaks, is silent where the Bible is silent.—1 Pet. 4:11.
4. It exalts Christ as the only head of the church.—Colossians 1:18.
5. Its acts of worship are patterned after the New Testament.—John 4:24.
6. It teaches that scriptural unity can be attained on all disputed doctrinal questions.—1 Corinthians 1:10.
7. The church of Christ pleads for the unity of all believers in Christ.—John 17:20, 21.
8. It is not a denomination, nor group of denominations. Its founder is Christ Himself.—Matthew 16:18.
9. Its aim—to save souls by preaching the Gospel, teach godly living, and help all those in need.—1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
10. Its future—eternal glory with Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:17.—Selected.

You may read about it in the Bible.

1. The first century Christians were cautioned concerning the vital importance of being sound in the faith, of "speaking as the oracles of God speak," and "not go beyond the things written." "The things which ye have learned, and received, heard, and saw in me," said Paul, these things do and the God of peace shall be with you. Phil. 4:9.

In the second chapter of the Acts, we get the history of the beginning of His church. The place was in Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:2, 3, Isa. 62:12, Luke 24:47), the time, the first Pentecost after the crucifixion. This is the only church Christ established, and recommended no other. In fact, there is no salvation in any other. (Acts 4:12, Matt. 15:13). Only those who are guided by the Bible have a well-grounded hope of heaven, and are on the firm foundation, the word of God.

In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul said: "All the churches of Christ salute you." (Rom. 16:16). In the Bible you may read about the church at Corinth, where Paul speaks of it as the church of God. (1 Cor. 1:2). In Hebrews we find this statement: "To the general assembly and church of the first born. (Heb. 12:23). These and other references to the church of the New Testament must refer to Christ's one church for He said, "I will build My church."

Let us honor Christ by serving Him in the one church He established, and follow His instructions as recorded in the New Testament. For therein glory is given Christ through all ages.

2. It has no creed but Christ, binds no name on its members but Christ's.—Acts 11:26, 1 Peter 4:16.

Unless a religious people have a definite and worth-while plea and mission, they cannot justify their existence. The church of Christ has the divine plea. It is an appeal to the Christian world for the restoration of everything that is essential in the New Testament. There is nothing in that plea that is not recognized by all Christians as Scriptural and right. The Christian world is not divided over what the Bible teaches, but over that which the Bible does not teach. Let us keep only that which is held as the faith and practice of the apostolic church.

I love the creed that is written nowhere except in the New Testament.

God has given us a plea and for man to substitute another is disobedience. That plea is God honoring. That plea is successful. It is full of possibility. It represents the only practical way to Christian unity. How loyal we should be to it! How earnestly we should propagate it in all the earth! How lovingly we should invite men and women everywhere to accept it!

We love Christ more than we love party names or human creeds. Let us then enthrone Jesus and make Him our supreme authority, make Him our object of faith, follow His leadership in all things, honor Him by wearing only His name, exalt His church, bring in His kingdom in its fullness, and beauty, a glorious and dignified church patterned after the New Testament.

3. It speaks where the Bible speaks, is silent where the Bible is silent.

The third reason why the church of Christ is worth investigating, is that every item that is taught and practiced, whether it be how to become a Christian (Acts 2:38), how to select elders and deacons for the church including their duties (1 Pet. 5:1-3), and how to conduct worship, are all plainly explained in the Bible. Moreover the name of the church is revealed in God's word. (Rom. 16:16).

Luke wrote to Theophilus: "It seemed good to me also having traced the course of all things accurately from the first, to write unto thee." (Luke 1:3).

In the assembly, Christians engage in the "apostle's doctrine" or teaching, "in fellowship" or the contribution, "in prayers," "singing spiritual songs," and "breaking bread" which is the Lord's supper. (Acts 2:42). During the days of the Apostles, the church observed the above five acts of worship, and so does the church of Christ today. Where there is not a "thus saith the Lord," we keep silent.

The Bible is an all sufficient guide in religious faith and practice. "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 every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). Hence all human creeds, and rules gotten up by uninspired men are rejected. Jesus said: "In vain they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9).

May we honor Christ, the glorified head of the church, by honoring His word.

4. It exalts Christ as the only head of the church.

"And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence (Col. 1:18). "And he put all things in subjection under his feet and gave him to be head over all things to the church which is his body. (Eph. 1:22, 23).

Now, how many bodies or churches did Christ establish? We find in Eph. 4:4-6, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling, one Lord one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all."

"Whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col. 3:17). Whatsoever things we do as Christians, we honor Christ our head. We must give Him the praise and the glory. As Israel honored God by wearing that name.

Why should not we reject all human names which cause divisions (1 Cor. 1:12, 13), and honor Christ by wearing scriptural names only (Eph. 3:14, 15; Acts 11:26).?

This subject may be summed up thus: The Lord is the builder, head, saviour, and foundation of the New Testament church. The Lord gave His life for it, and purchased it with His own precious blood. He is the bridegroom and the church is His bride, and honors Him by wearing His name. He adds all saved people to it (Acts 2:47). How glorious and dignified is His name!

5. Its acts of worship are patterned after the New Testament. "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him, must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

Worship, therefore, is a theme of great importance. God has given us a divine standard, and there should be no innovation. The New Testament scriptures plus nothing, minus nothing is our standard of appeal. To disregard the divine standard and corrupt the worship with the doctrines and commandments of men is to serve another than God. Every act of acceptable worship must be according to the divine pattern, as we are to worship God in truth.

Worship according to the New Testament pattern, consists of reading the Scriptures (Col. 4:16), prayer (1 Thess. 5:17), contribution (1 Cor. 16:2), singing (Eph. 5:19), and the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 23:26).

According to the divine pattern, the church of today is composed of Christian as living stones "Built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone" (Eph. 2:20).

The Apostles have no successors, but their inspired writings are as binding upon us today as they were when first written (2 Tim. 2:2).

In doing the simple will of the Father, we have every assurance that we are building according to the divine pattern in origin, name, doctrine, and practice.

The word of God is an all-sufficient guide in building for "Glory, honor, incorruption, and eternal life." Let us build according to the divine pattern given up by men who spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).

6. The Bible teaches that scriptural unity can be attained on all disputed doctrinal questions.

"Now I beseech you brethren through 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 perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10).

The Lord's people can live in perfect unity and harmony if the Bible is taken as a standard of appeal. Let us "speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where it is silent." Furthermore, it is not necessary to have an interpreter in order to understand the fundamental principles in the Bible. We can have unity on what the Bible says, but not on what it does not say.

The churches were repeatedly admonished to comply with the apostles' teaching, to add nothing, and to take nothing therefrom. This warning was strictly given for all time to come. "If any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: and if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take from him his part from the tree of life and out of the holy city." (Rev. 22:18, 19).

The Apostles established congregations in various cities, and set them in order. They gave the ordinances for divine service. They taught the congregations how to carry on their work.

Our plea to everyone: Speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where it is silent. In no other way can there be true Christian unity.

7. The church of Christ pleads for the unity of all believers in Christ.

"Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word, that they may all be one, even 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 didst send me." (John 17:20, 21).

The church is essentially one, it is a brotherhood. The proposal, therefore, for unity is not only reasonable, but imperative because it is scriptural and God-honoring.

Divisions in christendom have wasted Christian effort, time, and money. They have not only hindered the conversion of the non-Christian world to Christ, but have driven many to skepticism, which is a sin against heaven and a crime against humanity. In Proverbs 6:19 we learn that God hates "a false witness that uttereth lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Jesus said: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation." (Matt. 12:25).

We plead for a return in doctrine and practice, to the ground that was occupied by the Apostles.

Can you give a, "thus saith the Lord," for the things you do in worship and service to God? The churches of Christ simply plead that you follow New Testament teachings, and be a Christian in name and life.

There is but one church that God recognizes, and all who will be saved must enter therein (Eph. 4:4, 5). The religious world can never dwell in unity until all denominations are abandoned, and all return to the word of God.

8. It is not a denomination nor group of denominations. Its founder is Christ Himself.

"And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build MY church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18).

It is possible today for a group of people to be united as a local congregation of Christians only, and take the New Testament as their only rule of faith and practice without any denominational affiliation whatever: by avoiding all doctrines and commandments of uninspired men.

Millions of Christians have not yet subscribed to a human creed, confession of faith, or manual. The Holy Scriptures are complete. "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). Christians abiding upon this principle, are free to accept all scriptural truth, and are not bound by any creed to accept anything more.

Jesus did not purchase any denomination with His own precious blood, but He established one church, and He is the head of the body of the church. (Col. 1:18). It would certainly not be fitting for the body to have more than one head, neither would it be natural for the head to have more than one body.

God expects all of us to have respect for His Word. It is the duty of every Christian to show the difference between truth and error. Are you loyal to Christ if you encourage the sectarian church, which is contrary to all Bible teaching?

9. Its aim—to save souls by preaching the Gospel, teach godly living, and help all those in need.

"I make known unto you, brethren, the gospel I preached unto you, which you received, wherein you stand, by which you are saved if you hold fast the word I preached unto you, except you believed in vain. For I delivered unto you that which I received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and hath been raised on the third day." (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

### Godly Living

"He has granted us His exceeding great and precious promises, in order that through them we may become sharers in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is now in the world by reason of lustful passions. And for this very cause—adding besides, all earnestness—with your faith exhibit a noble character, with a noble character, knowledge, with knowledge, self-control, with self-control, endurance, with endurance, godliness, with godliness, love to the brethren, and with love to the brethren, love. (2 Peter 1:4-7).

### Those In Need

We learn from the teaching of God's word that acceptable gifts must be given freely, willingly and from the heart. We should always bear in mind that our wealth comes from the Lord, and we are holding it merely as a sacred trust. This is God's plan, and we are to give as we may prosper. In Matt. 5:42 Jesus gives us a very good example of how liberal we should be. He said, "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow, turn not away."

# NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ESTABLISHED A. D. 33.

Founder.	{ Jesus Christ. Matt. 16:18. }	Foundation.	{ Jesus Christ. Isa. 28:16; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2: 19, 20; 1 Pet. 2: 4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11. }	When-and Where Founded.	{ Isa. 2:1-4. Mic. 4:1, 2. Luke 24:46-49. Acts 1:4-8. Acts 2:1-4, 41-47. }	{ Character Visible —Gal. 1:13, or Invisible—1 Pet. 2:5. }
The Organi- zation Consists of Phil. 1:1.	{	Saints.	{ Called of God—Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:8, 9. How Called—Heb. 8:10; John 6:45; Rom. 10:14, 15; 1 Cor. 1:21; 2 Thess. 2:13. Why Called—Acts 26:16-18; Luke 24:47; Tit. 2:14; 2 Thess. 2:14; Rom. 10:1-13, 11-23-32. }			
		Elders.	{ Office—1 Tim. 3:5; 5:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-3; Acts 20-28. Character—1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9. Duty—1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17; 1 Pet. 5:2-3; 1 Thess. 5:12. }			
		Deacons.	{ Office—Acts 6:1-6. Character—1 Tim. 3:8-13. Duty—Acts 6:1-3. }			
			{ Duty of Church to Officers { To be submissive—Heb. 13:7-14. Not rebuke—1 Tim. 5:1; 1 Pet. 5:5 About accusations—1 Tim. 5:19. Honor—1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:13. Salute—Heb. 13:24. }			
Name	{	Of Organi- zation.	{ Church of God—Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 1-2; 1 Tim. 3:5. Church of the Living God—1 Tim. 3:15. Body of Christ—Col. 1:24; Eph. 4:12; 5:23. The Church of Christ—Rom. 16:16; Eph. 5:23. }			
		Of Mem- bers	{ Disciples—John 15:8; Acts 11:26. Saints—Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2. Brethren—Luke 8:21; 1 Cor. 15:6; Jas. 1:2; Pet. 1:10. Christians—Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16. Children—Gal. 3:26. }			
Creed.	{	Jesus Christ.	{ Apostles' Creed—Matt. 16:16; Rom. 10:8-10. Importance of Confessing Christ—Matt. 10:32, 33; 1 John 4:15. Examples of Confessing Christ—Matt. 16:16; John 1:49; Acts 8:37; 1 Tim. 6:12. Unchangeableness of Creed and Confession—Heb. 13:8. }			
		Baptism.	{ Proper subject; a penitent believer—Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41; 8:12-37; 18:8. How performed—Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:38, 39; John 3:5; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Heb. 10:22. Design—Mark 16:16; John 3:5; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21. }			
Christ's Ordinances.	{	Communion.	{ Instituted—Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 4:22, 23; Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26. Importance of—John 6:48-58; 1 Cor. 10:16. When to be observed—Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:28. Self-examination before taking—1 Cor. 11:27, 28-30. Results of partaking unworthily—1 Cor. 11:27, 29, 30. }			
			{ It is a Communion With Christ 1 Cor. 10:16 }			
Rule of Faith and Practice.	{	Word of God	{ To be used in conversion of the world—Mark 16:15, 16; Matt. 28:19, 20. Sufficiency for Church government—2 Tim. 3:16, 17. Seed of the Kingdom—Matt. 13:3; Luke 8:11. Sword of the Spirit—Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12. }			
			{ "Profitable for Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, Instruction that the man of God may be perfect, furnished completely unto all good works."			

## 10. Its future—eternal glory with Christ.

"Then we that are alive that are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we shall be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words." (1 Thess. 4:17, 18).

In order for us to understand the above blessings more perfectly, let us hear what the Spirit says to the churches. "To the victor, I will give the privilege of eating the fruit of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God." (Rev. 2:7).

"Let us rejoice and triumph, and give Him the glory, for the marriage day of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready. She has been allowed to robe herself in fine linen of dazzling purity—the fine linen being the righteous actions of the saints. Blessed are those who have been invited to the Marriage Banquet of the Lamb." (Rev. 19:7, 8).

Friend, have you accepted the glorious invitation of the Spirit and the Bride to be with the Lord forever? "Now, is the accepted time, today is the day of salvation," tomorrow may be too late, "today if you will hear His voice harden not your heart." (Heb. 3:8). Christ is now standing at the door of your heart and knocking for admission. Listen to His voice.

"The Spirit and the bride say, come. And he that heareth let Him say come. And he that is athirst let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17). How glorious!

## The Glorified Church:

It is fitting that we should study the Bible and especially the Acts of the Apostles for instruction concerning the glory and dignity of the church in Apostolic times. The Apostles were inspired by the Holy Spirit to perfect a foundation upon which the churches should stand until the end of this gospel dispensation. In giving the Apostles the commission, Jesus promised to be with them "always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:18-20). Many times, the churches were admonished to adhere to the teachings of the Apostles, to add nothing, and to take nothing therefrom. This solemn warning was given to the churches for all time to come. "If any one adds to those words, God will add to him the plagues spoken of in this book, and if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city" (Rev. 22:18, 19).

The church, Christ's spiritual realm, is the greatest institution extant, and membership in the church is the greatest privilege accorded to man. By divine authority, there is only one church, and there can be no substitute. The greatness of the church is seen in its task. The wisdom of God is to be made known through it (Eph. 3:10), and the gospel is to be preached by the church to the whole creation (Mark 16:16). Its work is the evangelization of the world and to redeem men and women. This work is to continue, without change, until Christ comes again.

## How to Enter the Church.

The New Testament teaches us very clearly how to enter the church as it is revealed for our instruction in the New Testament, but it does not teach us how to enter any other church.

Since Christ is the head of the body, the church (Col. 1:18), no one can enter without complying with the terms of entrance, which have been given by its head. The Lord adds people to his church, and He adds only those who comply with His terms. (Acts 2:47).

The phrase: "joining the church," is unknown to the Bible. Since the apostle Peter with the divine keys opened the door of the church (Acts 2:38, 39), the matter of opening the door of the church today is even more foreign to the Scriptures. Man cannot open the door because it is already open. Neither can any man shut it. "I have set before thee a door opened, which none can shut (Rev. 3:8).

Born into the family: The church is the "Family of God." By birth, we enter the physical family, and by rebirth we enter the spiritual family, God's kingdom, the church. To be born again, one must be born of the water, and the Spirit (John 3:3-5). Let "Spirit" mean Spirit, and water" mean water. We are begotten by the Spirit, the word of God (Jas. 1:18). We come up from the watery grave a new born creature (Rom. 6:3-6). Thus we are born both of water, and the Spirit.

In New Testament times, inspired men preached faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, as terms of pardon, to the alien sinner. This order has never been changed by divine authority.

## FAITH

The first condition which God has placed upon salvation is FAITH. Faith means, we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:9,17).

It is imperative that we have an abiding faith in God, if we would offer acceptable obedience in becoming a child of God, and to live a Christian life that would be well pleasing unto Him. "Without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that seek after Him" (Heb. 11:6). Paul said: "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7). "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). The importance of faith in the divine plan of salvation, is emphasized throughout the entire Bible."

The terms faith and obedience always work together. They cannot be separated in the act of salvation. Note that the turning unto the Lord was after they believed. The word of God does not teach that men are saved by faith without further acts of obedience. The faith that saves, leads one to obey the commandments of God. "To obey is better than sacrifice." The faith our Lord requires must be well pleasing to Him, and must be expressed in obedience. Paul speaks of this obedience (Rom. 16:26).

Faith, working through love on the part of God's children, accomplishes that for which it was designed. "Be faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

## REPENTANCE

After faith naturally comes another condition of salvation which is repentance. To repent means "to change the mind." If one repents of sin, he simply changes his mind about sin, whereas he once loved sin, he now hates it. Those who have learned to hate sin, will certainly not practice it. No one can love sin, and be pleasing to God. Therefore, a change of mind about sin is a condition of salvation. See Acts 2:38, 17:30, Lu. 24:47.

Repentance is commanded by Jehovah God. It is His way of turning mankind back to Him. "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all men to repent" (Acts 17:30).

God's commands are emphatically imperative.

We know that remission of sins and eternal salvation are impossible without faith and repentance. We should make no mistake about this positive command from God to repent which means a change of man's willpower, which is brought about by the goodness of God (Rom. 2:4), producing godly sorrow in the heart, the result of which is a reformation of life (2 Cor. 7:10).

Repentance causes man to lose sight of self and know his humility as a poor lost sinner, not able to justify himself by his own goodness.

Repentance is the decision to accept God's way, do His will, refrain as much as possible from doing wrong, and in the future, do right to the best of our ability. Ours must be such a repentance as will make us realize the terrible consequence of sin, so terrible indeed that it was necessary for God to give his Son to die for its destruction.

## CONFESSION

Confession of our faith in Christ is the third step necessary to our salvation, and naturally follows repentance, and precedes baptism, the final step into Christ's kingdom, the church.

The man who confesses his faith in Christ, also declares his repentance. Therefore after faith and repentance should come confession which is an acknowledgment of faith. There is no salvation without the confession of a belief in Jesus. This confession must be witnessed by men. "Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father who is in heaven (Luke 12:8). But this confession with the mouth only, is not sufficient. Ours must be such a confession of faith that our daily life, while here on earth, will reflect the beauties of His glorious life, that men may know we have a personal Saviour.

The wisdom of placing the confession of faith in the Christian dispensation is apparent. It strengthens the disciple to give public expression to what he believes.

On one occasion, Jesus asked His disciples: "But who say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:15). This confession identifies Jesus, and is the creed of the New Testament church today. This creed is divine and needs no revision. The universal practice of this creed will promote Christian unity, because it identifies the church.

All the combined forces of infidelity, atheism, criticism, modernism, and all the forces of the devil are not powerful enough to overthrow the glorious and dignified creed of the church of Christ.

## BAPTISM

When the believer repents and confesses Christ, then comes the positive command to be baptized (Acts 10:48). Faith changes the mind, repentance changes the conduct, and baptism changes the state. "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27).

Jesus said: "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he that disbelieves will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). Here we see that the conjunction and, joins faith and baptism, indicating that the Holy Spirit has joined these two terms together. One is undoubtedly as important as the other, and certainly they should not be separated.

It has been said, "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin." This is true because the Bible affirms it (1 John 1:7). The blood must be contacted or it will be of no avail. The place of contact is the place where He shed it—His death. The alien sinner goes down into His death in the watery grave of baptism and takes refuge in His blood (Rom. 6:3, 4).

When inspired men baptized, they used much water (John 3:23). They came to it and went down into it (Acts 8:38). After baptizing, they came up out of the water (Acts 8:39). The bodies of the baptized were washed in pure water (Heb. 10:22). The persons baptized were buried and raised (Col. 2:12). Were you baptized in this way? If not have you obeyed Christ's positive command? "Blessed are they that do his commandments" (Rev. 22:14). "If you know these things happy are you if you do them."—Jesus.

## BAPTISM IN PLAIN ENGLISH

REFERENCE	CANDIDATE	FACT RECORDED	ACT INDICATED
Mark 1:3	Jews	Water	Immerision
Matt. 3:16-16	Jesus	Much Water	Pouring
Mark 1:8-10	Jesus	Going into the Water	Sprinkling
John 3:23	Jews (at AEnon)	In Water	Immerision
Acts 8:36-39	The Ethiopian	Coming out of Water	Immerision
Rom. 6:4-5	The Romans	A Burial	Immerision
Col. 2:12	The Colossians	A Resurrection	Immerision

## HOW TO LIVE IN THE CHURCH

After becoming a child of God, study His word to know how to behave in God's house (1 Tim. 3:15).

The work of Christians consists in preaching the Gospel (1 Thess. 1:8, 2 Tim. 4:1, 2). Teaching the Gospel (1 Tim. 3:1, 2). Visit the sick (Matt. 25:34-40). Feed the hungry (Acts 6:1-5). Caring for the fatherless and widows (Jas. 1:27). Jesus said: "Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so shall you be my disciples (John 15:8). We glorify God by a life of faithful service, and by our works our faith is made perfect.

The church is the greatest institution in the world. Its greatness is seen in its task. The wisdom of God is to be made known through it (Eph. 3:10), and the Gospel is to be preached by the church to the whole creation (Mark 16:16). The evangelization of the world and the redemption of man is its task.

The church is a spiritual institution. "God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

Be ye filled with the Spirit, speaking one to another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord (Eph. 5:19).

The Lord's people should deny "ungodliness and worldly lusts, and should live soberly and righteously and godly in this world, looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Tit. 2:12, 13).

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

## SOME FACTS

Jesus established the New Testament church in Jerusalem in the year A. D. 33, under Jewish leadership. All other churches were established at the wrong place, wrong time, and by the wrong parties to be the true church.

God has never blessed any man on the condition of his faith until that faith expressed itself in some act of obedience.

Some people will follow the teachings of men on religious subjects and expect salvation from Christ.

The faith that saves, is the faith that obeys. Faith without obedience to God's commands is worthless.

Since Christ is the saviour of the body, we must be in the body to be saved.

The Spirit's manner of enlightening men has ever been through the word of truth (Acts 2:4).

I am not asked to confess some dogma, I must confess my faith in a personage or being.

There is no salvation without a confession of belief in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

The various creeds and confessions of faith have created much confusion and do hinder Christian unity.

The unadulterated gospel of Christ, sown in honest hearts, will bring forth only Christians, according to the New Testament pattern.

"There is no other name under heaven whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:11, 12.) Grandly did the early church exalt that glorious and dignified name which is above every other name.

Are you willing to search the Scriptures? (Acts 17:11), and see whether these things be true, and be a Christian only? (Acts 26:28).

Christ established a glorious church and "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up to death for her, in order to sanctify her and make her holy, cleansing her with the baptismal water by the word, that He might present the church to Himself a glorious bride, without spot or wrinkle or any other defect—holy and unblemished." Eph. 5:25-27.

That which I must do to be saved, makes me a member of His glorious church patterned after New Testament teaching.

*This tract was presented by:*