

Sincere seekers of the truth are bewildered by the thousands of different denominations in the world today. Each denomination teaches a doctrine that's different from all the others. Each denomination wears a special name to distinguish it from all others and each denomination worships in a different manner from all the others. Yet, all of these different denominations claim to be following Christ. So, are all churches right? Is one church just as good as another? If not, which church is the right church? Is it possible to find the one, true church today?

We must go to the bible to find the one, true church. We must test all things by the Word of God (Isaiah 8:19-20; I Thessalonians 5:21). We must accept Jesus as our only authority in religion (Matthew 28:18; Luke 6:46; Hebrews 5:8-9). There are some who want Christ, but they don't want His church. They say YES to Jesus, but NO to church! Many doctrines teach: "Just accept Jesus as your personal Savior and then join the church of your choice." What they fail to see is that Christ and the Church are bound together. One can't have one without the other. You cannot have Christ without the church. Christ is the head of the body and a body cannot live without its head. Christ is the King and the church is His kingdom (Matt. 16:18-19). One cannot be in Christ without being in His church. You see, the Lords add to the church all who obey the gospel (Acts 2:38). We find throughout the scriptures that all spiritual blessings are found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). We are baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27) and we are baptized into His body, the church (I Corinthians 12:13). So therefore, Christ is the Savior and the church are the saved.

Reader, I want you to look at the scriptures given thus far in this article and the articles to come concerning this subject and find out for yourself. There are many who say that, "God works in mysterious ways." Well, I for one do not believe that. I ascertain that if we just open our eyes, heart, and soul to God's Word—His evidence will become clear. But do not take my words for it—Read it in the Bible for yourself.

I recently had a conversation with a man who is close to my heart and he explained how hard it is to understand why people in this world just cannot follow simple directions. He went further to make the statement that if we would just all follow the SIMPLE directions the world would be a better place. I can say without hesitation that I agree with this man. However, I want us to look at in a spiritual sense. Wouldn't this life we live be so much easier if we just followed what God's Word has given us direction? In His Word we find just how to do that. Yet, in spite of what His Word says, the churches of Christ still are criticized for their basic bible beliefs. Critics are quick to point out that we have "translated the scripture to fit our needs" when the truth is just the opposite. I do agree that some churches of the Lord's Body have left the Way which is straight and have gone after the doctrines of men, but for the churches of Christ who still are operating as the bible commands this is a slap in the face. Yet, we still strive to teach in love the same way our heavenly Father shows all His creation love.

So, I ask you to search the scriptures daily. Take the "I believe's" and "I thinks" away and fully rely on God. May His peace that passes all understanding surround your life as you walk with Him daily.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes