

# THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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## **Could the Church Be Wrong?**

By Robert F. Turner

(Editors Note: Bro. Turner who is now deceased preached for years in the state of Texas and that he is referencing Texas in this old article).

Could "the church" be wrong? Is it possible that a portion---or even all of the members of a congregation (including their elders) could be in error with respect to doctrine and/or practice? Could several congregations be wrong? Could a majority of congregations be wrong?

One of the most basic fallacies of Roman Catholicism is its conception of the "infallible" church. But someone says, "The church of the New Testament could not be wrong!" WHICH ONE will you use as your example? The one at Corinth? Ephesus? Laodicea? But you say "I'm referring to the 'whole' church, the body of Christ." And I remind you that this organism, this relation of individuals to Christ, does not exist as a

functional organization. The characteristics of the perfect church must be gleaned piece by piece from the divine records. By command, example, and necessary inference we learn what Christ would have us be and do as a local church. The divine purpose and intent alone is without fault. In all functional churches---and here the N.T. allows us to speak only of individual congregations---the human element is present, and we are forbidden to use such a church as a pattern (**2 Cor.10:12**).

The New Testament, the covenant or law of Christ, is that which was set up on the first Pentecost after the resurrection (**Isa. 2:1-2; Joel 2; Acts 2**) and the body of people who accepted this law, and by a practice of its instructions brought into being the Jerusalem congregation, were the product--not the makers of a divine standard. The same principle continues to this good day, and both the First and Twentieth

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Century churches could and do err. (**See Rev. 2-3**). In every century, in every generation, each church must prove its right to the name "church of Christ" by showing identity with the divinely approved church characteristics found in the New Testament. We must pay more than lip-service to this principle. When we begin to think a thing is right because a "Church of Christ"---or a majority of the "Churches of Christ"---or ALL of the "Churches of Christ" do or teach it, we have become sectarian in our conception of the church, and need to revise our thinking.

God's word is the pattern by which a true church must be cut. Did you ever cut 2x4s to frame a wall, or pickets for a fence? If you obtained a pattern, cut the first by that pattern, then threw the pattern aside and cut the second by the first---and so on---you learned the fallacy of identity by succession. Any slight difference in the second was passed to the third---and the slight difference of the third was added to the error of the first, and passed on. To cut a true wall, or fence, we must measure each cut by the original pattern. This is no less true with reference to the church.

A crying need of our time is a firm resolve to determine right by an appeal to God's truth, rather than to "a well defined and clear-shown majority of the Churches of Christ in Texas." Cancellations will be received with as much grace as we can muster.

## **The Basic Message of the Bible**

By Gene Taylor

The fundamental teaching of the Bible, God's revelation to man, is that Jesus is the Son of God. It is the basis of the New Testament Scriptures (**John 20:30-31**) and the theme of New Testament preaching (See **Acts 2:36; 17:1-3; 1 Corinthians 2:2**). The Scriptures contain many facts that give positive evidence to support its main theme.

Consider what they reveal about the life of Jesus. They show He had an immeasurable influence on people, that His teachings were the greatest words ever spoken (**John 7:44-46**) and that His life was sinless (**Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21-22; John 8:46**). Even the enemies of Jesus admitted His innocence (**Acts 2**). Compare His sinlessness to the rest of mankind and you will find

Him to be the only one ever to live in sinless perfection (**Romans 3:10, 23**).

Consider also what the Scriptures say about the miraculous works Jesus performed. Those works, done by the power of God (**John 3:2**), gave evidence that He was from the Father and gave support to His claim to be the Son of God (**John 5:36**). No one, not even those who opposed Him, ever denied His ability to work miracles. They may have attributed the power to work them to an evil source, but they could not deny that He worked wonders before them.

The Scriptures also tell how Jesus fulfilled every one of the more than 300 Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. He used those prophecies to further establish and confirm His identity (**Luke 24:25-27; John 5:39-40**). It would have been impossible for an impostor to manipulate events and occurrences in such a way as to appear to be the genuine fulfillment of these prophecies. Many of the prophecies were minute in their details. Others were impossible for a human to control.

Among those Old Testament prophecies was the

prophecy of the resurrection of the Messiah from the dead (**Psalms 16:10**). The resurrection is the greatest evidence the Scriptures give in support of Jesus as the Son of God. If one accepts His resurrection as true, there can be no question of His divinity. **Romans 1:4** says that the resurrection demonstrated to all that He is the "*Son of God with power.*" Though efforts have been made to explain it away, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is an undeniable fact. It shows without doubt that the basic message of the Bible is true -- Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

### **Something To Think**

#### **About!**

#### **Selected**

*If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become ineffective in this world.*

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