
Can Christ's Church Exist Today?

God's eternal purpose was revealed when Jesus said, "on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Christ was to have a universal church composed of citizens of all the earth (Mark 16:15).

Less than one year after He promised to build His church, Jesus was betrayed, condemned, crucified, and entombed. Three days later, though, He was raised from the dead (Luke 24:1-35). By His resurrection He overcame death, but more than that, He proclaimed the beginning of a new, glorious age that had been planned by God.

In the city of Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, an annual Jewish feast, Christ's apostles proclaimed, for the first time, the wonderful news "...that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). Jews of every nation under heaven were present. They had been guilty of clamoring for the death of Jesus, therefore, "...when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of

Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:37-38).

On that Pentecost, saved people were added together (Acts 2:41) to the church (Acts 2:47). Therefore, the church is the body of those people who have been saved by the gospel, God's power unto salvation (Romans 1:16). Christ's church, the saved, has now been in existence for about 2000 years and *it exists today* even as we have just entered the twenty-first century.

We are striving to be a part of that church. Our hope is in "Jesus Christ and Him crucified," the only hope of salvation (1 Corinthians 2:1-3). He is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:9).

We look to no other creed or doctrine for salvation for our only creed is Christ (Matthew 16:16) and His New Testament (Jude 3), the gospel, God's power unto salvation (Romans 1:16). We plead with people to surrender their lives to Jesus by obeying His gospel.

In the gospel Jesus taught that one cannot be saved from his sins without faith in Him as the Son of God (John 8:24). He further stated that one must admit his sin and repent — turn from the practice of sin and evil and turn to God (Luke 13:3). He then declared "He who

believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

When we meet as a congregation of His people, our services are simple. We do only those things God has authorized.

- We sing songs of praise and edification (Eph. 5:19).
- We pray (1 Thess. 5:17).
- We partake of the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day to remember the loving sacrifice of our Savior (1 Cor. 11:23-30; Acts 20:7).
- We give freely of our means (1 Cor. 16:1-2).
- We give and receive instruction in the word of God (Acts 17:11).
- All of these are done in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

We are a dedicated group of Bible-believing people who are trying our best to conform our lives to the will of God and the image of Christ in all things. We accept the Scriptures as our only authority in religious matters. We are free from manmade religious laws. We are not members of any denomination. We are content to just be *Christians*. We practice the unity for which Jesus prayed (John 17:20-21).

Interested? My friend, Jesus died so that you could be fully cleansed of your sins and be saved but if you fail to obey Him and His gospel you will be lost eternally (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Why not obey that gospel so that you can be added by Jesus to His church — the body of the saved? 🙏