



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Suppose that some eligible bachelor should announce that he is getting married,
- And that tomorrow he is going to start looking for a wife;
  - And that furthermore, it doesn't make any difference which one he chooses,
    - Since one wife is as good as another.

- You would either laugh at his joke, consider him really stupid,
- Or you would think that somebody ought to call the men in white coats with the net and put him away.
- Yet that sort of reasoning is right up to date in religion.
  - You are —saved!
  - Then you pick out the church of your choice.
  - And one church is as good as another.

- The whole denominational concept of the church is wrong.
- This is not to be unkind.
  - It is a scriptural fact.

# IDENTITY THEFT IS ON THE RISE

WHAT YOU NEED  
TO KNOW



- **HOW TO  
IDENTIFY  
THE CHURCH  
JESUS BUILT**

- The Lord himself, about one year before the church was established, made a prophecy about the church or kingdom.
  - It was made about 32 A.D.,
  - Or about one year before the day of Pentecost as found in Acts chapter two.
  - Jesus and the apostles were in the area of Caesarea Philippi.
    - He asked the apostles what men thought about him.

- They replied,  
“Some say you are John the Baptist,  
others Jeremiah or even Elijah  
or one of the old prophets.”
- There were many different answers,  
opinions and ideas about Christ.
  - There still are today.

- Then Jesus asked the apostles a direct question
- Not what did men think about him,
- But what did they think about him.
  - The impetuous Simon Peter spoke out first and in a very simple and forthright manner said:

- **Matthew 16:17**

**And Jesus answered and said to him, You are fortunate, Simon, Son of Jonah, because flesh and blood has not revealed it to you, but my Father, the one in the heavens.**

- **16:18 But I also say to you, that you are Peter and upon this, the rock, I will be building my congregation of believers, and the gates of Hades will not be prevailing against her.**

- **(MLV - Modern Literal Version)**

- **Matthew 16:19**

- I will be giving to you the **keys** of the kingdom of the heavens,
- and whatever you **bind** upon the earth
  - will have **already been bound** in the heavens,
    - and whatever you **loose** upon the earth
    - will have already been **loosed in the heavens.**

(MLV - Modern Literal Version)

- **Note several things** about the church.
- First of all, that the church had **not** been established in or about 32 A.D.
- There are some who say the church had been established **since the beginning of time.**
- There are others who say it was **established in the days of Abraham.**

- There are still others who say it was built in the days of **John the Baptist.**
  - But, John the Baptist was dead when Jesus said, **“I will build my church.”**

- In English grammar “I will build” is future tense.
- It is not simply future tense,
- It is stronger than future tense.

- If Jesus had simply been trying to get over the fact that he was going to build his church in the future he would have said, **“I shall build.”**
- He made it even stronger by saying, **“I will build”** showing determination and strength of will power.

- He says  
“Upon this rock I will build my church.”
- The church is not simply the remodeling of an old institution.
- It is not just a Jewish institution remodeled and refurbished.
- It is a brand new institution built from the foundation up.

- What is the foundation?
- It is the confession Peter made *that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.*
  - The church has a new foundation;
    - A solid rock foundation.  
(Matthew 7:24-27)

- The next thing we to notice is, **“I will build.”**
- When Jesus made this statement **it was to be in the future.**
- We may look for the church to be established sometime **after about 32 A.D.**

- Jesus said,  
**“It is my church.”**
- This is the reason the church should be called  
**“the church of Christ.”**
- Many denominational churches show ownership because  
**they are named after man.**
- But the church of Christ shows  
**divine ownership because**  
it belongs to Christ.

- **Are names important?**

- Who's name is on **your checking account?**

- Who's name is on **your marriage certificate?**

- The church of Christ **is not a Denomination.**

- It is **not** named after some man.

- It is named **after Christ himself.**

- Therefore, **we bear that name.**

- Also notice that the church is singular.
- Jesus did not say,  
“I will build my churches.”
- Sometimes people say,  
“Just join the church of your choice.”
- **No!** You **don't** have a choice!
  - And he built only one.
  - “I will build my church.”

- **It may seem arrogant** to make that claim today.
- So let us ask the **question**:
- **How many tabernacles** did God make for the Jews under the Law of Moses?
  - **Only one.**
  - How about ***“join the tabernacle of your choice”***

- When it was being built  
what did God tell Moses?

- Hebrews 8:5

Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he,

- that you make all things  
according to the pattern  
shown  
to you in the mount.

- Is it arrogant  
to follow

**the commands of God?**

- **Luke 6:46**

**And why call me,  
Lord, Lord,  
and do not the things  
which I say?**

- Are you building  
Your House on the Rock

- Matthew 7:24

Therefore who ever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

- 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

- **Matthew 7:26**

**And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and does them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:**

- **7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

- **Matthew 7:28**

And it came to pass,  
when Jesus had ended  
these sayings,  
the people were astonished  
at **his** doctrine:

- **7:29** For he taught them  
as one having **authority**,  
and not as the scribes.

- In this one church there are many smaller congregations or assemblies.
  - Thus making up the one great congregation called the church.
  - All of the assemblies ought to believe and practice the same way, because Jesus built but one church.

- **Divisions in the Church**

- **1Corinthians 1:10**

**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.**

- **1 Corinthians 1:11**

For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, **that there are contentions among you.**

- **1:12** Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of **Paul**; and I of **Apollos**; and I of **Cephas**; and I of **Christ**.

- **1:13** **Is Christ divided?**  
was Paul crucified for you?  
or were ye baptized  
in the name of Paul?

- **1Corinthians 4:17**

**I have sent Timothy to you, who  
is my beloved and faithful child in  
the Lord,**

- **who will be reminding you  
of my ways,**

- **the ones in Christ,**  
**just-as I am teaching  
everywhere  
in every congregation.**

**(MLT)**

- **As I teach everywhere ...** -
  - The Christian church is founded every where **on the same doctrines;**
    - Is bound to obey **the same laws;**
    - And is to produce and cherish **the same spirit.**
    - **Romans 14:17**
- For the kingdom of God is ...**  
**righteousness, and peace,**  
**and joy in the Holy Ghost.**

- The same spirit was required in
  - Ephesus
  - Antioch,
  - Corinth;
- (Albert Barnes Commentary - Presbyterian - E-sword)

- (Adam Clarke Commentary - E-sword)
- **My ways which be in Christ -**  
(1 Cor 4:17)
- What I require of all the **Churches of Christ** which I have formed,
  - as I follow the same plan of discipline **in every place.**

- **Adam Clarke**  
(1760 - 1832)

was a British **Methodist** theologian and Biblical scholar.

- Who wrote a commentary on the Bible which took him **40 years to complete.**
- Adam Clarke refers to the **“Church of Christ”**.
  - Over **35** times in his commentary.
  - **As do numerous other**  
Bible commentators.
- **So why did they not honor Christ with that term?**

- **It is nothing new**  
that people do not understand  
the Nature of the  
Kingdom of God.
- **Isaiah** said the people would beat their  
swords into **plowshares** and their  
spears into **pruning hooks**.  
(**Isaiah 2:4**)
- When they came out to arrest the Lord,  
**Simon Peter pulled out his sword**  
and cut off the ear of the  
servant of the high priest.

- Jesus said,  
**“Put up your sword”**  
(Matthew 26:52)
- **The apostles still did not understand**  
the nature of Christs’ kingdom.
  - In **John 18:36** Jesus said,  
**“My kingdom is not of this world:  
if my kingdom were of this world,  
then would my servants fight.”**

- People of the 1<sup>st</sup> century may have an excuse for not fully understanding the “Kingdom of God” the church.
  - But there is no excuse today!

- **Jude 1:3**

**I exhort you  
that you should  
earnestly contend  
for the faith  
which was  
once delivered  
unto the saints.**

- **Do you want to be a part** of that everlasting kingdom that will ultimately be delivered up to the Lord and to heaven itself?
  - It was established on the day of Pentecost according **to Acts chapter 2.**
    - On that day the kingdom was established **and its saving message** preached in all its fullness for the first time.

- When the great audience of people cried out and said,
- **“Men and brethren what shall we do?”**
  - Peter gave them **the terms of entering the church** or the kingdom.  
He said,
- **“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”**  
**(Acts 2:38).**

- The keys that Peter used to unlock the door to the church are still with us today.
- With the same keys a person can enter the church that was built by Jesus Christ himself;
- Bought with his blood;
- Filled with the Spirit;
- And gives us the hope of everlasting life.

- When there is **danger** involved should an alarm be sounded?
- Would this be even more true **when souls are in danger?**
- It appears that Jesus saw **a need to sound**  
**such an alarm.**

- **Matthew 15:7**

You **hypocrites**, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,

- **15:8** This people **draws close unto me**

with their mouth, and honors me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

- **15:9** But in **vain** they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the **commandments of men.**

- John 4:23

“ ... true worshipers

will be worshiping the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father also is seeking such who are worshiping him.

- 4:24 God is a Spirit, and it is essential for those who are worshiping him to worship in spirit and truth.

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**











