

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH (1)
Matthew 16:13-20

Introduction:

1. There are more than 2,000 different denominations in the USA today.
2. There are thousands of additional denominations in other lands.
3. The New Testament says:

“There is one body (church) and one Spirit (Holy Spirit), just as you were called in one hope (Heaven) of your calling, one Lord (Jesus), one faith (doctrine) one baptism (immersion), one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:4-6).
4. What was the New Testament church like?
5. Can it be restored today?

Discussion:

- I. **THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS BUILT ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN.**
 - A. God gave a pattern for the ark:

“Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it. The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door on the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.” (Gen. 6:14-16).
 - B. God gave a pattern for the tabernacle:

“According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it” (Exod. 25:9).
 - C. God gave a pattern for the temple:

“Then David gave his son, Solomon, the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; and the plans of all that he had by the Spirit...’All this,’ said David, the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans” (1 Chron. 28:11-19).
 - D. God gave a pattern for His church.
 1. There is a pattern for salvation:

“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin,

yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered” (Rom. 6:17).

2. The pattern was the same for all churches:

“For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ as I teach everywhere in every church” (1 Cor. 4:17).

3. The pattern must be held (followed).

“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:13).

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS BUILT ACCORDING TO PROPHECY.

- A. It was built in the last days when the Spirit was poured out.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh... and it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21).

- B. It was built in the last days in Jerusalem.

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isa. 2:2,3).

- C. It was built in the days of the Roman Empire.

“And in the days of these kings the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever” (Dan. 2:44).

- D. All this was fulfilled on Pentecost in Acts 2.

1. It was in the last days.
2. It was in Jerusalem.
3. It was in the days of the Roman kings.
4. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles.
5. The Gospel was preached.
6. Those who called on the Lord’s name by obeying the Gospel were saved.
7. The Word of the Lord went forth from Jerusalem.

III. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS BUILT ACCORDING TO GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE.

A. God's plan of redemption was in His mind from eternity:

"...and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Christ Jesus, to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:9-11).

B. The church was in God's mind from the beginning.

IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WAS BOUGHT BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

A. Christ died for the church:

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Eph. 5:25).

B. Christ purchased the church by His blood.

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which he purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

Conclusion;

- 1. There was but one church in the beginning.**
- 2. All the saved are members of it.**
- 3. It is built according to the pattern God has given.**
- 4. We can restore that same church today by following the pattern in the New Testament.**
- 5. There is a specific pattern by which one becomes a member (Rom. 6:16-18).**
 - a. We must hear the Gospel (Rom. 10:17).**
 - b. We must believe in Jesus Christ (John 8:24).**
 - c. We must repent of our sins (Luke 13:3).**
 - d. We must confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37).**
 - e. We must be immersed for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).**

