

Surprises About The Church of Christ

Introduction. In the New Testament, the pure doctrine of Christ produced astonishment (Matthew 7:28-29; Acts 13:12). It is no surprise that the doctrine of the church will do the same. The early church was born into an environment of sorcerers, gods, goddesses, and many spiritual cults and religions. Inattention to doctrine robs the church of her reason for existence and opens the way to enslavement and oppression by the world. A lot of people are fed up with organized religion. So are we! We will see some startling facts about the church of Christ in this lesson.

I. ***Preachers Are Not "Pastors" Or "Reverends"***

- A. The Bible is clear that only God is to wear the name "Reverend" or "Father" (Psalm 111:9; Matthew 23:5-12). It is sacrilegious for anyone else to do so.
- B. "Pastors" is used in Ephesians 4:11, clearly separated from evangelists. Those who preached were ministers, not overseers of churches (1 Corinthians 3:5).

II. ***No Earthly Head Or Headquarters***

- A. Before the church was in existence, Christ promised to build it. It did not come into existence by human effort (Matthew 16:18).
- B. Because Christ built the church, He is the head, and it is under His authority. There can be no earthly leader of the true church (Ephesians 1:21-23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 5:2).

III. ***No Mechanical Music In Worship***

- A. The Old Testament did allow for instrumental praise to God, but we no longer live under its authority (Psalm 150:3-6; Ephesians 2:14-15).
- B. The New Testament only says to sing. It mentions specifically to use the heart (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

IV. ***Communion Every Lord's Day***

- A. When people became Christians, the partook of the memorial of the Lord's death (Acts 2:42). This memorial was on the Lord's day, the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
- B. Although religious organizations partake of it on Sunday, they fail to understand the requirement of every first day of the week (Exodus 20:8; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

V. ***Baptism Is Essential For Membership***

- A. On the day of Pentecost, people were baptized and the Lord added them to the church (Acts 2:41, 47).

B. Baptism in water was a burial which puts us into Christ and saves us (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21).

Conclusion. When one searches the New Testament, these facts are not surprises at all (Acts 17:11). Boniface said, "In her voyage across the ocean of this world, the church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship but to keep her on course."