INTRO:
A. Jesus promised to build His church and many churches today claim to be His
B. How can we tell the difference between Christ’s church and those of men?
C. The answer lies in comparing the Bible description and what we see today.

I. THE CHURCH IN THE BIBLE
A. One head over the church, the body. Ephesians 1:22-23
B. Only one body. Ephesians 4:4-6; 2:16
   1. The saved are added to it. Acts 2:40,47
C. Universally, all the saved.
D. Locally. Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 1:2
   1. With bishops and deacons. Philippians 1:1
   2. Elders in every church. Acts 14:21-23
   3. Elders and bishops are the same. Titus 1:5,7

II. APOSTASY FORETOLD
A. Some will depart. I Timothy 4:1
B. Some will have itching ears. 2 Timothy 4:2-4
C. Will begin with some elders. Acts 20:30-31
D. Gradually changes God’s plan to a human one.

III. INTO CHRIST
A. Baptized into Christ. Galatians 3:26-27
B. Into one body. I Corinthians 12:13
C. To be saved. Mark 16:15-16
D. To wash away sins. Acts 22:16

CONCLUSION:
A. God’s plan shows no earthly organization for the church except for local congregations.
B. Human plans include all levels of earthly control, also changes God’s plans regarding salvation, worship, work of the church, etc.
C. Which one will you choose?