

Christ's Church

Matthew 16:13-18

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?