

# The Original Christianity

## Jude 3

### Introduction:

- A. The Christian faith was completely revealed in the first century.
  - 1. No further revelations were expected nor needed (2 Pet. 1:3)
  - 2. No additions, alternations, nor modifications were to be tolerated (Gal. 1:6-9).
- B. The Christian faith has been modified greatly by many since the first century.
  - 1. Hold membership in “Christian” organizations unknown in the first century.
  - 2. Preach “Christian” doctrines never preached in the first century.
  - 3. Divided into hundreds of “Christian” denominations not known to first century.
- C. We want to look back of all modern concepts to examine four *aspects* of the original Christianity.

### Discussion:

#### I. The Original Plan of Salvation.

- A. Five simple steps to salvation.
  - 1. Hearing the gospel (Mark 16:15; Rom. 10:14, 17)
    - a. Convicts of sin.
    - b. Produces faith.
  - 2. Believing the gospel (Mark 16:16)
  - 3. Repenting of sin (Acts 2:38)
  - 4. Confessing Christ (Rom. 10:10).
  - 5. Baptized into Christ (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3,4).
- B. Church membership and salvation came at the same time (Acts 2:47).

#### II. The Original Church

- A. It was neither denominational or ecumenical, but one body under Christ (Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:4; 1 Cor.4:17)
- B. It was organized only on the local level.
  - 1. All officers were local (Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:2; Phil. 1:1)
  - 2. Local churches met for worship.
    - a. Lord’s supper and collection only on first day of week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2)
    - b. Singing, prayers, and teaching not limited to 1st day of week (Col. 3:15; Acts 12:5; Act 5:42)
  - 3. Local churches preached, edified and relieved poor saints (Phil. 4:15-17; Eph 4:16; 1 Tim 5:16)
- C. It was called no non of the modern sectarian names.

#### III. The Original Goal

- A. The goal of early Christians were spiritual and eternal (2 Cor. 4:17-5\_2)
- B. The emphasis of early Christians was on “hereafter” more than “here an now.”
  - 1. Taught not expect a utopia on earth (John 16:33; 1 Thess. 3:4; 2 Tim. 3:12)
  - 2. Goal was to reach heaven (1 Pet. 1:4; 2 Pet. 3:11-13)

#### IV. The Original Life Style

- A. Morally pure lives separate from the world (1 Pet. 4:2-4).
- B. Honoring the Lord as husbands, wives, parents and children (Eph. 5:22, 26; 6:1-4).
- C. Honoring God as citizens and neighbors (1 Pet. 2:1-2; Rom. 13:1-5; Jas. 2:8)

### Conclusion:

- A. The original concept of Christianity needs to be restored to our thinking and practice.
- B. The original can be restored in our lives, if we obey what they did and be just what they were.