

The Old Paths

Volume 20, Issue 36

November 3, 2013

“The Lord’s Church Vs. Denominations”

Jarrod Jacobs

Many today do not realize that there are fundamental differences between the Lord’s church and the denominations of men. Some believe there is really no difference at all; and that one church is as good as another. This is not true. In this issue, we will look at the differences between the Lord’s church and the denominations.

The Lord’s Church Was Built By Christ. Denominations Were Built By Men.

This fact is made clear when we read several plain statements in the Scriptures. First, Jesus Christ said He would build His church based upon Peter’s confession (Matt. 16:16-18). He also died for only one church (Eph. 5:23-25). He is the foundation of His one church (I Cor. 3:11). He is the chief cornerstone of His one church (I Pet. 2:6-7). Therefore, how can those belonging to a denomination come along and say that “x” denomination belongs to Christ, too?

Our Lord didn’t die to establish a denomination. His blood did not purchase a denomination. He is not the foundation of a denomination! Knowing that two or more houses cannot be built upon the same foundation, and since Christ is the foundation of His own church, we can know for certain that the denomina-

tions today are built upon another foundation, and not on Christ!

The Lord’s Church Follows His Word. Denominations Follow Creed Books And The Opinions Of Men.

The Lord’s church follows only what the Bible says. Peter taught: *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God”* (I Pet. 4:11). Paul taught that whatever we do or say must have authority from Heaven (Col. 3:17)! The preaching of Christ and the apostles, as well as the early Christians rings with Scripture and appealing to God’s authority for all they did and said.

Do the modern denominations believe or practice this? While I know many would say, “We use the Bible, too!” The truth is that denominations do not follow the Bible only. They have other books they follow. In my office, I own Methodist “Disciplines,” and a Catholic “Catechism”. Even the Baptists have creed books and “articles of faith”. Further, Mormons have their own creed books like the “Pearl of Great Price” and “Doctrine and Covenants.” In addition to this, they have a pseudo-Bible (The Book Of Mormon) which they use in teaching. The Jehovah’s Witnesses have done this as well by writing their own Bible called the “New World Translation”!

Friend, consider the following question very carefully. Can one

say he is following the Bible when he relies on creed books for his teachings and beliefs? The Lord’s church follows only the Lord’s word, that which will judge us one day (Jn. 12:48).

The Lord’s Church Has No Earthly Headquarters, But Denominations Have Them.

We know that the headquarters for anything is where the head resides. For example, this country’s headquarters is in Washington D.C. Why? Because that is where the President resides!

Did you know that denominations have headquarters located on earth? They do this because this is where the head of their church resides! For example, the head of the Catholic Church resides in Vatican City. Therefore, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church is in Vatican City. In like manner, the headquarters for the Mormon church is in Salt lake City, Utah because this is where their head resides. Albany, New York is the headquarters for the Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Cleveland, TN is the worldwide headquarters for the Church of God denomination.

Many other examples could be listed, but in contrast, let us note that the Lord’s church has a head and a headquarters as well — Christ is the head of His church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23)! Furthermore, He resides in Heaven (Acts 1:9-11, 7:55-56, etc.). Therefore, the “headquarters” for the Lord’s church is in Heaven. It is not on the earth! In addition to this thought, let us remember that Jesus has all authority in Heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18). If Christ has “all” the authority, how much does that leave for you? Me? Now, dear reader, consider the church of which you are a

member. Is your church's headquarters in Heaven or on earth? Is it in Rome? Is it in Salt Lake City? Is it in Nashville? Philadelphia? New York? Etc....? The Lord's church has its headquarters in Heaven, because this is where Jesus (the head) lives (Acts 1:9-11, 7:56)!

The Lord's Church Follows God's Plan For Salvation. Denominations Do Not.

God's plan for the salvation of men's souls is clear. He expects men to hear the gospel, which produces faith (Rom. 10:17). Man must believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn. 8:24). It is then required that men repent of their sins (Lk. 13:3). They must also confess their faith in Christ (Matt. 10:32). Finally, God requires that a man be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). We can read about men following God's plan for salvation in places like Acts 2:36-38, 16:30-34, 22:16, etc. When one follows God's plan of salvation, then God will add him to His church (Acts 2:47)!

The denominational world does not teach this plan. Most denominations, like the Baptist church, teach that "faith only" saves men. Yet, the only time the Bible even uses terms like "faith only," God says it DOES NOT SAVE (Jas. 2:24)!

Other denominations, like the Catholic and Methodist churches will say that a little baby needs to be saved, and so they will sprinkle water on the baby, and say that he/she must believe later and will be "confirmed" at a later time! This practice contradicts plain passages as Mark 16:16 which show that faith must come before baptism. Also, such practices contradict passages as Colossians 2:12 which declare baptism to be a bur-

ial in water, and not a sprinkling of water on a person.

Further, the Lord's plan of salvation requires one to choose to obey, and to make these wishes known to others. A baby cannot do this. "Infant baptism" is taught because it is believed that a little baby has inherited the guilt of Adam's sin. This is something that the Bible does not teach (Ezek. 18:4, 20). Truly, our denominational friends have not been teaching the truth when it comes to the plan of salvation, as well as who is subject to this plan.

The Lord's Church Worships As God Directs. Denominations Worship As They Please.

God wants people to worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4:24). He expects His people to worship Him in song, in doctrine (teaching His word), giving as we have been prospered, partaking of the Lord's Supper, and prayer (Acts 2:42, 20:7; Eph. 5:19; I Cor. 16:1-2). All of this is to be done every first day of the week! In contrast, almost every denomination in existence uses mechanical instruments in worship. They will also take the Lord's Supper at their convenience. Most do not teach the Bible, but their creeds and/or other

opinions. They demand people give to them at times other than the first day of the week, and use bingos, raffles, car washes, bazaars, etc. as ways to make money as well. Does this sound like they are worshipping as God directs?

Conclusion

There are other differences between the Lord's church and denominations that we could study. But, the things mentioned above ought to encourage all of us to study and learn whether or not the church to which we belong is the Lord's church or not. Remember, we need to "receive the word with all readiness of mind and search the Scriptures daily..." (Acts 17:11). Are you a member of the Lord's church? (Rom. 16:16)

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" (James 5:16).

Are you praying daily for our work here at Caneyville? Are you constantly asking for God's blessings on our elders, deacons, preacher, Bible class teachers, our elderly, the widows, the spiritually weak, and every brother and sister in Christ? We have a great and powerful tool in prayer. Use it!

One way we spread the gospel.
<http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>



**I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!
Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.
Location: 103 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY**

Meeting Times:

- Sunday Bible Study - - - - - 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study - - - - - 7:00 p.m.

Watch:

"The Ancient Landmark" Television Show airs on You Tube (www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994) and Insight Cable, channel 6

Listen:

"The Ancient Landmark" Radio program airs on WXMZ, 99.9 FM (10:30-11:00 am) and WLBQ 1570 AM (8:30-9:00 am) Monday-

**Friday. It is also broadcast online at: thez999.com and beechtreeneews.com
Preacher/Editor: Jarrod Jacobs Phone: (270) 589-4167**