**These Perilous Times**

**Vol. 9, No. 10 May 21, 2018**

 **Does God Have a Peculiar, Organized Church Denomination?**

**Part I**

 The word *church* is synonymous with *temple*, *synagogue*, *tabernacle, Bride of Christ, Woman or simply stated, a community of religious worshipers.* The word church is an English transliteration that comes from the Greek word ***Ekklesia*** [[1]](#footnote-1) which means: a religious congregation, a community of members… /ecclesiastical.

 There are only two distinct churches mentioned in Scripture. The “pure woman” [[2]](#footnote-2) and the “scarlet woman.” [[3]](#footnote-3) Professed Christians will be a part of one **church/woman** (Body of believers) or the other! There is no neutral ground with the Lord.

 There are many *Christian denominations*, but only *one* *remnant* (Those that remain-see Matt. 24:13/Rev. 12:17)!

“There is ***one body***/church and ***one Spirit***, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ***one Lord***, *one faith*, *one baptism*.” Ephesians 4:4, 5 (Emphasis supplied)

**What is a denomination?**

 “The dictionary defines the word *denomination* as; *a name*, *designation*, a *society of individuals*.

 In order for a body of Christians to hold a title to church properties and transact business in

today’s modern world, it is necessary to have a

 *legally* *registered name.* ” [[4]](#footnote-4)

**What does this mean for us?**

 Jesus told Peter that on Himself (Jesus the Rock) “He” would build ***His church***. [[5]](#footnote-5) What is the ***function of the church*** that began at Pentecost, that Jesus founded?

“And they continuing *daily with one accord*, *in the temple*, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and *singleness of heart*, praising God, and having favor with all people. And the ***Lord added to the church* *daily such as should be saved***”

Acts 2:46, 47 (Emphasis supplied).

 ***God’s church*** is *organized*, and has a Spiritual function- *the saving of souls for God’s kingdom.*

 “Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they came to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, *preaching the Lord Jesus*. And *the hand of the Lord was with them*: and a *great number believed*, and *turned unto the Lord*.

 Then tidings of these things *came unto the ears of the* ***church*** which was in Jerusalem: and they sent for Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. “ [[6]](#footnote-6)

“And when they had *ordained them elders in every* ***church*,** and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed… and when they had come and gathered the ***church*** together, (Body of believers) they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles” Acts 14:23, 27 (Emphasis supplied).

 “For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him to be at Jerusalem *on* the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and *called the elders of the* ***church*** “Acts 20:16, 17 (Emphasis supplied).

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

 Today there appears to be *professed Christians* who arecriticizing organized churches! It is being propagated more and more that one really doesn’t have belong to an *organized church* to be saved.

 We know we are not saved corporately but individually, however the instruction and teachings of “new babes” in Christ come through God’s Word via His appointed “remnant” [[7]](#footnote-7) church-that points to Christ the Head of the body of believers/church!

 If there was to be no organized church denomination, why did Jesus raise it up, and organize it-giving it spiritual gifts, i.e., Pastors, Evangelists, Deacons, Elders etc.?

 Jesus stated, through His servant Paul, in Ephesians chapter four, that He gave *gifts to His church* *to grow it*, *equip it*, to *edify the body of Christ*, for the *work of the ministry* and prevent it from being deceived by *rogue disciples*, “that we henceforth *be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrin*e” [[8]](#footnote-8) (Emphasis supplied).

 God’s “*remnant”* ***church*** is being, and will continue to be attacked from *without* and from *within*. Satan is at war with God’s “*remnant people*” [[9]](#footnote-9) and takes pleasure in causing division and ridicule.

“For I know this, that after my departing shall **grievous wolves** *enter in among you*, *sparing not then flock*. Also ***of your* *own selves shall men arise***, ***speaking perverse things***, ***to draw away disciples* after *them***. “Acts 20:29, 30

(Emphasis supplied)

**More to come in our next issue**

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1. Strong’s Greek Dictionary, Nashville, London, Atlanta, Nelson

 Publishers, 1999, p. 26, entry N0. 1577. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Revelation 12:1-17 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Revelation 17:1-6 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Knowles, George C. The Message Behind The Movement, Boise Idaho,

 Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1988, p. 50. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Matt. 16:15-18 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Acts 11:19-22 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Revelation 12:17; 14:6-1219:10 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ephesians 4:1-16 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Revelation 12:17 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)