

## **The Lord Founded a Visible Church<sup>31</sup>**

To all who believe the New Testament to be the inspired word of God, Jesus once and for all settles the question, Did Jesus set-up or found the Church? Is it a visible institution?

In Matthew chapter 16, Jesus Himself makes these statements, [Mat 16:18-19] And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.<sup>32</sup>

Some say that because the future tense is used here that the Lord had not formed His church. Notice, He did not say, I will begin My church. It was already begun when He said “I will build My church.” His church is still in the process of building, and as one human being has succeeded another through the ages into the present, so has there been a succession of true churches made after the divine pattern from that one founded by Jesus Christ, all through the ages and will be until the Lord comes again.

Jesus in Matt. 16:19, speaks to the Church of the keys, also of the binding and loosing. He is here teaching His church

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31 Section title added to help with identifying sections of material

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concerning the authority to receive members and also to exclude members.

We find that Jesus laid down the rule for dealing with the offender in Matthew chapter 18. [Mat 18:15-17] Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear [thee, then] take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell [it] unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.<sup>33</sup>

If Christ's words mean anything at all in these scriptures, the church is a local visible institution here on the earth carrying on business for the Lord. And as Jesus says in [Mar 13:34] [For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left His house, and gave authority to His servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.<sup>34</sup> Then, when He gave the commission, He closed with these words, "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matt. 28:20.

Again He said, [Mat 24:14] And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.<sup>35</sup>

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Paul says, [Eph 3:21] Unto Him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.<sup>36</sup>

The Baptists have a divine origin. They were constituted into a church on a mountain above Jerusalem by the Son of God Himself, out of material made ready by John the Baptist. Therefore, they are a Baptist Church..

We have several Churches in this section of the country that still hold true to the doctrine and practice essentially the same as the first Baptist Church. May we always strive as we are admonished in Jude 3 to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

There could be much more produced on this subject, but this is sufficient proof for anyone who wants to take the Bible as to the origin and continuity of the Baptist Church.

We send this forth with a prayer trusting that this book will be helpful to all who read it.

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