The New Testament Church
Matt 16:18

Introduction:
   1. To many church like a denomination - ours is right one
   2. To many church is body of Christ made up of all denominations.
   3. To many church is perpetual organization with line of succession. - “Same ax”
   4. To many church like a bus. Just jump on an go to heaven. As long as on right bus have it made.
B. The New Testament church needs to studied as to how it was established and how it spread.

Discussion:
I. The Church Was Established When Lord's Rule Was Established In Heaven.
   A. “Mountain of Lord's house” to be established and exalted above hills. (Isa. 2:1-5).
      1. Rule of Christ exalted above all other rule. (cf. v. 17).
      2. Rule or kingdom set above all other. (Dan. 2:44).
      3. Rule was to be set up in last days. (cf. Acts 2:16; Mk. 9:1).
   B. Jesus established as “Lord and Christ”. (Acts 2:36)
      1. Received “the promise of the H.S.”, i.e., the promised throne. (vs. 16,25,34-35).
   C. Jesus' authority established as supreme. (Mt. 28:18-20).
      1. With apostles as ambassadors. (cf. 2 Cor. 5:20; Mt. 16:19; 18:18).
      2. With their word as ruling instrument. (Jn. 14:25,26; 15:26,27; 16:12; 17:20; Rom. 10:6-17).
II. The Church Was Established When Lord's Rule Was Established In Hearts Of Men And Women.
   A. Began in Jerusalem in day of Pentecost. (cf. Isa. 2:3)
   B. Spread to rest of world. (cf. Acts 1:8; Col. 1:23)
      1. They are described as being:
         a. “In Christ” (Gal. 3:26,27; Rom. 6:3).
         b. “In one body”. (1 Cor. 12:13).
         c. “ Redeemed”; “Reconciled”; “Saved”
      2. The are individually labeled:
         b. “Believers”, “saints”, “brethren” (Acts 5:14; 1 Cor. 6:1,6).
      3. They are collectively labeled:
         a. “The body” (1 Cor. 12:13,14).
         c. God's “people”, “nation”, “house”, “priesthood” (1 Pet. 2:5-10; cf. 2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Tim. 3:15).
         d. “Church” is group noun, like “herd”, “covey”, “pack”, etc.
      4. They organized into local groups - churches. (Rom. 16:16; Acts 14:23)
         a. Assembled for worship.
         b. Collectively acted in teaching and helping.
         c. Controlled membership - accepted, rejected, disciplined.
   C. Spread to Alabama as men and women submitted to His rule.

Conclusion:
A. What is the church?
   1. People loyal to Christ as Ruler. Loyal to Him not a group of people that may wear His name.
   2. “Churches of Christ” are organized groups at various places ruled by Christ.
B. What is restored in restoration?
   1. Not the rule of Christ in heaven, it has never been lost - cannot be destroyed.
   2. But, the rule established in hearts can be lost - need to be restored.
      a. When that rule is established in hearts today produces same as first century.
      b. When ruled by Christ will rid selves unscriptural doctrines, practices and systems.