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.
   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.