

What Was Established on the Day of Pentecost?

Matt 16:18; Acts 2:47

Introduction:

- A. To well-drilled preschool class the answer is simple: Answer by rote - Understand little.
- B. To many members of church the answer just as simple, but with very little more understanding.
 - 1. Think of church as a denomination - ours is right one.
 - 2. Think of church as perpetual organization with line of succession. - "Same ax"¹
 - 3. Think of church as a bus. Just jump on an go to heaven. As long as on right bus have it made.
- C. In the establishment of the church, two significant things happened:

Discussion:

- I. Christ's Rule Was Established In Heaven.
 - A. "Mountain of Lord's house" was established and exalted above hills. (Isa. 2:1-5).
 - 1. Rule or kingdom exalted above all other rule. (cf. v. 17; Eph. 1:20-23).
 - 2. Rule or kingdom was to be set up in last days. (cf. Acts 2:16; Mk. 9:1).
 - B. Jesus was established as "Lord and Christ". (Acts 2:36)
 - 1. Received "the promise of the H.S." made through David as prophet (vs. 16,25,29-36).
 - 2. Received a kingdom. (cf. Luke 19:12,15).
 - C. Jesus' authority was 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. (John 17:20; Rom. 10:6-17).
- II. Christ's Rule Was Established On Earth. (Cf. Matt. 6:10)
 - A. Many began to submit to his authority as they were taught his ways. (cf. Is. 2:3; Acts 1:8).
 - 1. Baptized by His authority ("in the name of...") and into name (authority). (Acts 2:38; Mt. 28:18-20).
 - 2. Translated into kingdom. (Col. 1:13,14).
 - 3. Added to church. (Acts 2:47).
 - B. They were described as being:
 - 1. "In Christ" (Gal. 3:26,27; Rom. 6:3).
 - 2. "In one body". (1 Cor. 12:13).
 - 3. "Redeemed"; "Reconciled"; "Saved"
 - C. They were called:
 - 1. Individually: Believers (Acts 5:14), Saints (1 Cor. 6:1), Disciples (Acts 9:26), Christians (Acts 11:26,29).
 - 2. Collectively: Body (1 Cor. 12:13,14), House, Priesthood, Nation, People (1 Pet. 2:5-10; cf. 2 Cor. 6:16; 1 Tim. 3:15), Church (Eph. 1:22,23).
 - a. "Church" from ekklesia means a called out assembly.
 - b. "Church" is group noun, like "herd", "covey", "pack", etc. (cf. I Cor. 12:14)

Conclusion:

- A. Again, we ask: "What was established...?" - The answer is still, "The church!"
- B. But, we must ask, "What is the church?"
 - 1. People who accept the rule of Christ established in heaven.
 - a. When church ceases to be ruled by Him it no longer His church. (Ill: "Tom, Dick and Harry"²)
 - b. Our loyalty is to Christ and not a group of people that may wear His name.
 - 2. Local church is an organized group in a given place being ruled by Christ.
- C. Further, we ask, "Does one have to be in the church to be saved?"
 - 1. Does one have to be among those who submit to the rule of Christ to be saved?

2. Does one have to be among the saved to be saved? (Acts 2:47; cf. Acts 5:14).

1. A fellow said he had an antique ax that was over 200 years old. However, he said it has had six new handles and three new blades over that period of time. But it was the same ax. This is the way a lot of folks view “the church.” The “church” may have undergone a number of major changes over time, but it is the same church that their families have been a member of for four or five generations.

2. Tom, Dick, and Harry are all baptized and become members of a local church near them. In time, the church drifts from the truth. Tom and Dick are bothered by the drift. They attempt to reverse the church’s downward spiral, but with little success. Eventually they have to conscientiously leave that local church and meet elsewhere. But Harry, who also is somewhat disturbed by the changes taking place, cannot bring himself to break with the church. He rationalizes that he did not initiate the changes so it is not really his problem. He stays with the church. Tom and Dick were loyal to the Lord. Harry was loyal to “the church.”