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 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”
   3. Think of church as a bus. Just jump on and 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).
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).
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:
   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. (III: “Tom, Dick and Harry”)
      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).