

The New Testament Church

**The Church We Read
About in the Bible**

Acts 2:36-47, 4:23-35

Most Denominations Trace Their Origins To A Man Or A Cause.

- ▶ Catholic Church - historically recognized as a denomination since the 325 AD Council of Nicea.
- ▶ Lutheranism - A reform minded Catholic priest named Martin Luther in 1530 sought to reform the Catholic Church.
- ▶ Presbyterianism - John Calvin, Ulrich Swingli, et al, 1540; eventually took root in Scotland.
- ▶ Baptists - John Smythe, John Menno Simmons, et al, circa 1611.
- ▶ Methodism - John and Charles Wesley in colonial America, 1735, as a search for structure in Protestantism.

Most Denominations Trace Their Origins To A Man Or A Cause.

- ▶ Episcopalians - an American attempt to reform the Anglican Church of England in 1750.
- ▶ Christian Church - A departure from the restoration movement begun in Bethany, WV during the early 1800s, over the instrument and missionary society, crystallized in 1896 at the Sand Creek Conference.
- ▶ Jehovah's Witness - grew out of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society started by Charles Tayes Russell in 1880.
- ▶ Pentecostal and Charismatic churches - The Second Great Advent Movement, circa 1890.
- ▶ Digressive churches of Christ - 1930-1940; World Radio Program and the Herald of Truth, et al.

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Promised Kingdom

- Matt. 16:18-19 - "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Acts 2:36-47

- ▶ The Promised Kingdom
 - **What constitutes a Kingdom?**
 - ▶ A King
 - ▶ A Territory
 - ▶ Subjects
 - ▶ A Law

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Promised Kingdom

■ **The King: Jesus Christ**

▶ Luke 1:33 - "He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there shall be no end."

■ **Territory: The hearts of human beings**

▶ Luke 17:21 - "The Kingdom of God is within you."

■ **Subjects: People from all nations and backgrounds**

▶ Gal. 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Promised Kingdom

■ **The Law: God's word**

- ▶ 2Tim. 3:16-17 - "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- ▶ Gal. 1:8-9 - "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."
- ▶ 2John 9 - "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son"

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Promised Kingdom

■ The Law: God's word

- ▶ Deut. 4:2 - "Ye shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish aught from it."
- ▶ Prov. 30:6 - "Add thou not to His words lest He reprove thee and thou be found a liar."
- ▶ Rev. 22:18-19 - "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Acts 2:36-47

- ▶ The Perfect Body of Christ - Col. 1:18
 - Eph. 1:22-23 - "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Perfect Body of Christ - Col. 1:18

- Eph. 4:11-13, 15-16 - "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Privileged Family

- Romans 8:16-17 - "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Patterned Church

- God has always expected His people to follow His directions when building for Him.



Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Patterned Church

■ Noah building the ark

- ▶ Gen. 6:8-9, 22 - "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. 9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."
- ▶ Gen. 7:1, 5 - "Then the LORD said to Noah, 'Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation'... 5 And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Patterned Church

- Moses and tabernacle, ark, and priesthood

- ▶ Ex. 25:9, 40 - "According to all that I show you, that is, the **pattern** of the tabernacle and the **pattern** of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it. 40 And see to it that you make them according to the **pattern** which was shown you on the mountain."
- ▶ Ex. 26:30 - "And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its **pattern** which you were shown on the mountain."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Patterned Church

- Moses and tabernacle, ark, and priesthood

- ▶ Num. 8:4 - "Now this workmanship of the lampstand was hammered gold; from its shaft to its flowers it was hammered work. According to the **pattern** which the LORD had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand."

- ▶ Heb. 8:5 - "Who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, 'See that you make all things according to the **pattern** shown you on the mountain.'"

Acts 2:36-47

▶ The Patterned Church

- God has given a pattern for the construction of His church.

▶ 2Tim. 1:13 - "Hold fast **the pattern of sound words** which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."

Acts 2:36-47

- ▶ Beginning marks: Also according to God's planned pattern
 - **Founder: Jesus Christ**
 - ▶ Matt. 16:18 - "I will build my church."

Acts 2:36-47

- ▶ Beginning marks: Also according to God's planned pattern
 - **Place: Jerusalem**
 - ▶ Luke 24:49
 - ▶ Acts 1:4-5
 - ▶ Acts 2:4, 16, 36-41, 47

- ▶ Luke 24:49 - "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."
- ▶ Acts 1:4-5 - "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which, He said, 'you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'"

- ▶ Acts 2:4 - "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."
- ▶ 16 - "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel"
- ▶ 38-41 - "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.' 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."
- ▶ 47 - "...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ Beginning marks: Also according to God's planned pattern

■ **Time: 33 AD**

▶ Gal. 4:4 - "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."

▶ Eph. 1:10 - "That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ Beginning marks: Also according to God's planned pattern.

- **Head: Jesus Christ**

- ▶ Col. 1:18 - "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ **Organization:** According to God's pattern.

■ **Elders**

- ▶ Heb. 13:17 - "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

■ **Deacons**

- ▶ Phil. 1:1 - "Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ **Organization:** According to God's pattern.

■ **Teachers**

- ▶ 1Cor. 12:28 - "And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues."

■ **Preachers**

- ▶ Rom. 10:15 - "And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!'"

Acts 2:36-47

- ▶ **Organization:** According to God's pattern.
 - **Members**
 - ▶ 1Cor. 12:12 - "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ **God's chosen names for the church:**

- 1Cor. 1:2 - Church of God
- Heb. 12:23 - Church of The Firstborn
- Rom. 16:16 - Churches of Christ
- Col. 1:24 - The Body of Christ
- Col. 1:13 - The Kingdom of His Dear Son
- Rev. 21:2 - The Bride of Christ
- 1Tim. 3:15 - The House of God

▶ Any church preaching and practicing all of the doctrine of Christ and calling itself by one of these names is accepted with God. Any other is not.

Acts 2:36-47

▶ God's chosen names for His people:

- Isa. 65:14-15 - "Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, But you shall cry for sorrow of heart, And wail for grief of spirit. 15 You shall leave your name as a curse to My chosen; For the Lord GOD will slay you, And call His servants by another name."
- Isa. 62:2 - "The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ **God's chosen names for His people:**

- Acts 11:26 - Christians
- Rom. 1:17 - Saints
- Gal. 3:26 - Children
- John 6:3 - Disciples
- 1Peter 2:5 - Priests
- Gal. 6:1 - Brethren

▶ God has authorized no other names for citizens in His kingdom.

Acts 2:36-47

- ▶ **God's chosen pattern for worship:**
 - How we worship has always been important to Him.
 - ▶ Cain and Abel; Nadab and Abihu
 - Acts 20:7 - Lord's Supper
 - 1Thes. 5:17 - Prayer
 - Col. 3:16 - Singing
 - 1Cor. 16:2 - Giving
 - Acts 20:7 - Bible instruction

Acts 2:36-47

▶ **God's chosen attitudes for worship:**

- Psalm 89:6-7 - "For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him."
- 1Cor. 14:33, 40 - "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints... Let all things be done decently and in order."
- 1Tim. 3:15 - "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

Acts 2:36-47

▶ **God's chosen attitudes for worship:**

- God is to be feared, revered, and respected.
- Worship must be conducted in a reverential and orderly manner.
- God's word tells us how to conduct ourselves in a reverential, orderly manner.

Acts 2:36-47

- ▶ We have traced the roots of the church of Christ, not from secular history, but from the word of God. That is significant.
- ▶ The entrance requirements into the Lord's Church, the Church of Christ, are taken from the word of God also, and are according to God's chosen pattern.

Acts 4:23-37

▶ Entrance Requirements

■ Faith

- ▶ Heb. 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
- ▶ John 8:24 - "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

Acts 4:23-37

▶ Entrance Requirements

■ Repentance

- ▶ Luke 13:3 - "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

■ Confession

- ▶ Rom. 10:9-10 - "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Acts 4:23-37

▶ Entrance Requirements

■ **Baptism**

- ▶ Mark 16:16 - "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
- ▶ Acts 2:38 - "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

- ▶ The Church is the advocate, not the administrator, of salvation. Your salvation is entirely and solely dependent on your choice to yield or resist the call of God through the Gospel.
- ▶ God does not require you to know all of His will and word in all things as a prerequisite to obeying the Gospel. You must know what to do to be saved, and you must desire to do it.