

1 Corinthians 4:17— The apostle taught the same thing everywhere

and in _____ church.

1 Corinthians 7:17— Paul ordained the same teaching in _____ the churches.

1 Corinthians 14:33, 34— God does not want confusion during the

assembly. This was not just the practice in some churches but in _____ the

churches of the saints. Also, in the churches, women were to keep _____. This practice of women keeping silent during church was not limited only to the church at Corinth.

He says “Let your women keep silent in the _____. Was this the universal practice in all the churches of Christ? _____

If a church today allows women to teach or speak during the assembly, it is not the church that Jesus built. The church of Christ in the first century and in every century has always maintained that women keep silent in the churches as the apostles taught in 1 Corinthians 14:34.

2 John 1:9— Any person or group of people (church) that does not abide

in the _____ of Christ exactly as He delivered it does not have God. They are not in fellowship with God the Father or the Son. God does not consider any church a faithful church that departs from Christ's teaching even in one point of doctrine. Christ requires complete unity and complete agreement on all that we teach and practice (1 Cor.1:10).

Summary: The church of Christ is the spiritual kingdom which Jesus established in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. Peter used the keys that Jesus gave him and opened the door to allow people into the church of Christ for the first time. Today Jesus is reigning over His church which faithfully follows His teachings exactly as He delivered them. Any church that chooses to believe or practice something different than what the apostles taught in the first century is a church founded by man and rejected by God. In our next lesson we will study the nine cases of conversion mentioned in the book of Acts and how those converted were added to the church of Christ.

OPEN BIBLE STUDIES

By Paul Melton

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Christ's Spiritual Kingdom)

Lesson 5



Name _____

Address _____

Directions: Please locate in your Bible the following references and read each verse carefully before answering each question.

In Old Testament times, the nation of Israel was the kingdom of God (Ex.19:6). However when Jesus came, He promised to establish a spiritual kingdom, a church to replace the earthly kingdom (congregation) of Israel.

Daniel 2:37-44— Daniel saw a vision of a statue each part of which represented four kingdoms or world empires:

Golden head— Babylonian kingdom

Silver breast and arms— Mede and Persian Kingdom

Brass belly and thighs— The Greek Kingdom

Iron legs and iron and clay feet— The Roman Kingdom



Daniel 2:44 — Daniel prophesied that in the days of these _____ (of the 4th Kingdom, the Roman Empire), the God of heaven would set up a new spiritual kingdom that would consume all earthly kingdoms. This

new kingdom that Christ would establish would never be _____.

Matthew 4:17 — Jesus began to preach “the kingdom of heaven is at _____.” Does this mean that the spiritual kingdom of Jesus was drawing near, quickly approaching, just around the corner and that it would be arriving soon? _____

Matthew 16:13-20 — Jesus blessed Simon Peter because he made the good confession. In the space below please write out Peter's confession of faith (*see verse 16*).

Jesus then told Peter in verse 18 "Upon this rock, I will build my _____.
Would the belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God be the rock and solid foundation upon which the church would rest? _____ (1 Cor.3:11)

How many churches would Jesus build? _____

In verse 19, Jesus promised to give Peter the keys of the _____.
According to this promise, would Peter open the gates and allow people to enter into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ? _____

John 18:36 — Jesus said His kingdom was not of this _____.
The kingdom of God would no longer be the physical nation of Israel, but Jesus would establish a new spiritual kingdom or church.

Acts 1:6-8— The apostles even after Christ's resurrection still had the mistaken notion that Jesus was going to drive the Roman Empire out of Israel and restore the _____ to Israel. Jesus contradicted this notion by saying that they would receive power.

Mark 9:1 — Some of those alive that day, standing and listening to Jesus speak while He was on earth would not taste _____ till they saw the _____ come with power.

THE KINGDOM CAME ON PENTECOST DAY

Acts 2:1, 4 — Did the apostles receive power on Pentecost and begin to speak in tongues? _____

Acts 2:14 — Who stood up with the eleven and loudly began to preach? _____

Acts 2:37 — When the people interrupted Peter's sermon, they wanted to know what was needed for them to enter the kingdom of Christ. They

asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we _____?"

Acts 2:38 — Who told them to repent and be baptized? _____

Acts 2:41,42,47 — The Lord Jesus himself _____ to His church those who were being saved. By telling the people what they needed to do to be saved, was Peter using the keys (given to him by Jesus) to open the doors of the kingdom? _____ How many souls did the Lord add to His spiritual kingdom (the church) on the day Peter preached? _____ (see verse 41). According to verse 42, in whose doctrine did the early church continue steadfastly? _____

As you can see, the kingdom of Christ came with power on the day of Pentecost, and Peter used the keys of the kingdom by showing them how to be forgiven of their sins and enter Christ's kingdom or church.

Colossians 1:13 — When we were saved, God _____ us out of the power of darkness and conveyed (translated) us into the _____ of His beloved Son.

Ephesians 1:20-23 — Today Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God reigning as king over His church (His spiritual kingdom). God has put all things under His feet and has given him to be _____ over all things to the church.

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

One of the key characteristics of the church Jesus established was its unity. There were not different doctrines being taught in different churches. The church of Christ in every city taught the same doctrine and when a church started to stray from that doctrine that were called back to it.

Philippians 3:16 — God desires everyone to walk by the _____ rule and be of the same _____.