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THE
NEW TESTAMENT
CHURCH

By Geo. W.
Butterfield

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THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

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PREFACE

Great works of literature by good men deserve to be perpetuated. This idea has prompted the present edition of THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH by Geo. W. Butterfield.

The author passed to his reward soon after having finished this work. Several thousand copies of the first editions have been used and highly appraised by Bible scholars and students alike. For the past few years the book has been out of print, and not available.

At the suggestion of interested persons, the present publishers completed arrangements with the author's widow, Mrs. Emma C. Butterfield, to again make the work available to the public. She is being remunerated, in a small way, for allowing us to reprint the book. It goes forth with a hope that many persons will be blessed through a study of its contents. We believe that the author's faith in God's Word, as expressed through the pages of this book, stands as a monument to his memory.

The introduction by Oliver Johnson which follows, and the remaining pages are an exact lithographic reproduction of the original edition. Only this Preface and the Table of Contents have been added by the present publishers.

—THE PUBLISHERS.

INTRODUCTION

The personality of the author Geo. W. Butterfield is a strong and striking personality. He is a commanding figure among the preachers of the Church of Christ. He has what may be termed a well-poised mind. It cannot be stirred by petty questions, such as occupy attention of small souls, but is awakened by great thoughts, and, when aroused, it moves with a powerful momentum. He is logical, clear, incisive, original, and withal exceedingly forceful in his presentation of truth. He is especially quick in his perceptions of spiritual verities. His powers of heart are no less striking than powers of mind. Such, I think, will be the verdict of all who will study these sermon outlines.

The stimulating power of a great mind and idea is forcibly illustrated in these outlines. The Divine authority and all sufficiency of the Scriptures, the Lordship of Jesus, the name, creed, and the ordinances of the church, —all in fact that necessarily cluster around the great central plea, and serve to make it a practical possibility—he has most firmly grasped and most firmly held. Such outlines have great practical values.

The forecast for this volume must, therefore, be peculiarly favorable, since these factors enter into its production at their maximum strength. The consideration of the value of these factors as they influence these outlines must, therefore both Swollen a deep interest in the student, and create a large expectation which, we venture to say, will be met by a careful study of the following outlines.

The importance of the subjects outlined need not be dwelt upon. This will be better understood by a careful study of the volume itself. Ill I mistake not, it will be the verdict of all who read and study these outlines, that they are of vast and far-reaching importance, and truths of profound import, are set forth in a masterly way.

OLIVER JOHNSON

Chester, W. Va., Nov. 5, 1942.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS ORIGIN

I. The Church Is Of Divine Origin.

1. The idea of creating the church originated in the mind of God.
2. Man did not think of it. The idea of the church was new to man. Jesus had taught his apostles for three and a half years, yet they did not grasp the idea of the establishment of the church until they had been "endued with power from on high." (Acts 1:6-8).
3. Man would not have thought of it. The idea seems to be contrary to the thoughts of men. They do not see that the church is necessary for their salvation.
4. If the church had been of human origin, it would have failed.
5. The establishment of the church was not dependent upon the wisdom of men. The Lord would not permit the apostles to begin their work until they had been "endowed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:6-9; 2:1-3).

II. The New Testament Church is The Original Church.

1. Date of origin: Day of Pentecost, A. D. 33. (Acts 2:47).
2. Any church that originated later than the above date is not the church of the New Testament.
3. Churches of later date have some of the original doctrines, but many errors, also.

III. By Whom Was It Built?

1. The Lord. (Psa. 127:1; Matt. 16:18).
2. The churches of modern times were built by man. The Church of the New Testament was built by the Son of God. (Acts 2:47).

IV. Where Was The New Testament Church First Established?

1. Jerusalem. (Acts 2:1-5; Luke 24:46-49).
2. Zion. (1 Pet. 2:6; Isa. 46:13).
3. Any church established elsewhere is not the New Testament Church.

V. The Church That Was Established at Jerusalem on The day of Pentecost By The Apostles of Christ Was The Original Church.

1. It was the model congregation. (1 Thess. 2:14).
2. It met the approval of God.
3. Every congregation that meets the approval of God must be "built according to the pattern" shown us at Jerusalem.

VI. The New Testament Church Was a New and Original Institution.

1. The church was not a remodeled house, but it was a new building in which the Lord placed new blessings. The Lord did not "put new wine in old bottles." (Matt. 9:17).

VII. The Original Church Was Equipped With Everything Necessary For Its Existence, Edification and Perpetuation.

1. "Ye are complete in Him." (Col. 2:10).
2. Scriptures "completely furnished" man of God unto every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS PURPOSE

1. The Church Was a Part of God's Eternal Purpose.

(Eph. 1:9, 10; 3:1-12; Acts 15:13-18; Col. 1:24-29).

1. The church was not all accident, nor all "after-thought" on God's part, as result of Jews rejecting Christ as King.
2. It is not a substitute for all earthly kingdom in Canaan.
3. The church has all important place in the scheme of redemption.
4. The death of Jesus and the establishment of the church were "by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God." (Acts 2:23; 4:28).

II. God's Purpose In Establishing The Church.

1. To "gather in one (body) all things in Christ." (Eph. 1:10).
2. That it be the bride-"help-meet"-of Christ. (Eph. 5: 25-27; Rev. 22:17).
3. To make known the wisdom of God. (Eph. 3:8-11).
4. That the church would glorify God through Christ. (Eph.3: 21)
5. To make a new creation in Christ. (2 Cor. 5: 17; Eph. 2: 10).

111. THE Church Was Not Established For The Purpose:

1. Of entertaining people. It should not be in the show business.
2. Of raising money. It is not in the merchandising business.
3. Of promoting social activities.
4. Of promoting athletic contests. It is not a recreational center.

IV. The Purpose Of The New Testament Church Was To Be:

1. Subject to its head. (Christ. (Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:23; Col. 1:18).
2. A soul-saving institution. (Acts 2:47; 4:11, 12).
3. A people for the Lord's name. (Acts 15:13-18; Rom. 1:5, b).
4. A glorious people. (Eph. 5:25-27).
5. The House of God. (Heb. 3:6; 1 Tim. 3:15).
6. The true worshippers. (John 4:22-24).
7. The "pillar and ground (support) of the truth." (1 Tim. 3:15).
8. The care-taker of God's poor. (Matt. 25: 31-40; Acts 4:32-37).
9. The light of the world. (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:12-16).

V. God's Eternal Purpose in Establishing The New Testament Church:

1. Predicted by the prophets. (Ps. 118:22-24; Isa. 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:1-10; 35:8-10; 42:1-9; 46:13; 56:5; 62:1-4; Dan. 2:44; 7: 9, 10; Joel 2: 28-32).
2. Promised by Christ. (Matt.5:13-16; 16:18,28; John 10:15,16; Luke 24:25-27, 46, 47; Acts 1:6-8).
3. Revealed to the apostles and prophets by the Spirit. (Acts 1:6-9; 2 :1-4; Eph. 3 :1-11; Rom. 16: 25, 26; 2 Tim. 1: 9-11; 1 Pet. 1:10-12.)
4. Recorded for our instruction. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 1 John 5:13).

VI. The New Testament Church Is The Only Institution That Can Serve God's Purpose:

1. "To gather in ONE (body) all things in Christ." (Eph. 1:10).
2. To glorify God "in the church by Jesus Christ throughout all ages, world without end." (Eph. 3:21).
3. To be the "pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Tim. 3:15).
4. To save the souls of sinful men. (Rev. 22:17; Acts 4:11, 12).

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS HEAD

I. Who Is Head of The New Testament Church?

1. Not the pope of Rome. The Roman Catholic church is not the church described in the New Testament.
2. Peter was not the head of the church. He was all apostle and a servant. (2 Pet. 1: 1) .
3. Not any person on earth. Martin Luther, John Wesley, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Glover Eddy, Ellen G. White, Judge Rutherford were all heads of unscriptural bodies.
4. No Gentile can be the head of the church. The New Testament church was composed of Jewish people for the first seven and a half years of its existence.
5. No one but Jesus could be the head of the church. (Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:15,16; 5:23,24; Col.1:18).
6. Jesus "is the head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18).

II. Jesus Is The Head of The Church.

1. He has unlimited authority. (Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 1:19-23).
2. He is "head over ALL THINGS to the church." (Eph. 1: 22,23).
3. He is to "have pre-eminence in all things." (Col. 1:18).
4. All fulness dwells in him. (Eph. 1:23; Col. 1:19).

III. What Relationship Does He Sustain To The Church?

1. The same as that of the head to the physical body. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:15,16).
2. The same as that of the husband to the wife. (Eph. 5:22,23).
3. The same as that of a king to his subjects. (Col. 1:13; Phil. 2: 9-12; John 18:36,37).
4. The same as that of a shepherd to his flock. (John 10:14-16; Acts 20: 28; 1 Pet 5: 1-4).
5. The same as that of a Master to his servants. (John 13:13; Col. 3: 22-25) .
6. The same as that of the Builder to the house. (Heb. 3: 1-6).

IV. Jesus Is The Head of The Church. He Is Its:

1. Builder. (Matt. 16:18; Heb. 3:1-6).
2. Bridegroom. (Eph. 5: 22-33).
3. Purchaser. (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:20).
4. Prophet. (Acts 3:20-23; Heb. 1:1-4).
5. High Priest. (Heb. 3:1; 4:15,16; 5:5,6; 6:20).
6. Guide. (John 14: 6).
7. Guardian. (1 Pet. 3:12).
8. Advocate. (1 John 2:1,2).
9. Shepherd. (1 Pet. 5:4; John 10:14-16).
10. Saviour. (Eph. 5:23; Matt. 1:21).

V. Jesus Is:

1. The Divine head of the Divine institution, the church.
2. The never-dying head of the everlasting institution, the church (Rev. 1:18; Heb. 7:24,25; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:28).
3. The Saviour of the only saving institution in the world. (Eph. 5:23; Acts 4:11, 12).
4. The **ONLY HEAD** of the **ONLY CHURCH** that He ever built. (Col. 1:18).

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS NAME

I. By What Name Was The Church of The New Testament Known?

1. Church of the Lord. (Acts 20:28 A. R. V.)
2. Church of God. (1 Cor. 1:2).
3. Churches of Christ. (Rom. 16:16).
4. Jesus built HIS church. (Matt. 16:18).

II. Whose Name Should The Church Wear?

1. It should wear the name of the one who was crucified for us. (1 Cor. 1:12 13; Acts 20:28).
2. It should wear the name of the one into whom we were baptized. (1 Cor. 1: 12 13; Rom. 6: 3 4; Gal. 3: 26 27; Matt. 28:18 19).
3. It should wear the name of the one who built it. (Matt. 16: 18).
(a) "Noah's Ark." (b) "Solomon's Temple." (c) "Christ's Church."
4. The wife should wear the husband's name. The church is the bride of Christ. (Eph. 5:23-27). She should wear his name.
5. The body should wear the same name as its head. Christ is the head of the body the church. (Eph. 1:22 23; Col. 1:18). The church should wear the name of Christ.

III. Would it Be Wrong for the Church to Wear the Names of Men?

1. Paul condemned Christians at Corinth for doing so. (1 Cor. 1:11-15) .
2. He said the Corinthians were "carnal" because they were calling themselves by the names of men. (1 Cor. 3:3 4). It is dangerous to be carnally minded. (Rom. 8:6).
3. The Jews were told that when God called his servants by another name that they would leave the name "Israel" for a curse unto his chosen. (Isa. 65: 15). Jewish members of the church gave up the name "Israel" for the name of Christ.
4. It would be wrong for a man's wife to wear another man's name. The church is the bride of Christ. (Eph. 5: 23-27).
5. It is wrong to wear any unscriptural name.

IV. By What Names Were The Members of The Church Known?

1. Disciples. (Acts 6:1 2 7; 9:10 25 26; 11:26).
 2. Brethren. (Acts 10:23; 11:1 12; 20:32).
 3. Saints. (Acts 26:10; Rom. 1:7; Eph. 4:12).
 4. Christians. (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16).
- (The name CHRISTIAN includes every name that describes a follower of Christ).

V. The Name "Christian" Is a Name The Lord Gave To The Members of His Church.

1. It was a new name. (Isa. 62:2). "First at Antioch." (Acts 11: 26).
2. It is a name that was spoken by the mouth of the Lord. (Isa. 62:2).
3. It is a perfect name. It cannot be improved upon in any respect.
4. It will describe a perfect follower of Christ. Some people live better lives than their religious names designate, but no one needs a better name than "CHRISTIAN."
5. We need not be ashamed of the name the Lord gave us. (I Pet. 4:16).
6. Spirit of glory and of God rests upon this name (1 Pet. 4:14).
7. It is a name in which we glorify God. A.R.V. (1 Pet. 4:16).
8. It is a worthy name (Jas. 2:7).
9. It is a name in which there is salvation. (Acts 4: 11-1. 13).

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS DOCTRINE

I. Definition of Terms.

1. DOCTRINE: "The principles, belief or dogma of any church, sect or party."
2. The New Testament is the doctrine of Christ and is the only rule of faith and practice of the New Testament church. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
3. A doctrine is a seed that bears fruit after its kind:
 - (a) Pharisee doctrine produced Pharisees; Sadducee doctrine produced Sadducees; Mormon doctrine produces Mormons; Baptist doctrine produces Baptists; Christian doctrine produces Christians.
 - (b) You cannot produce a Baptist by teaching the Book of Mormon; neither can you produce Baptists, Methodists, Mormons, etc., by teaching Christian doctrine—the doctrine of Christ, the New Testament.

II. How Did The Church Receive The Doctrine of Christ, The New Testament?

1. God gave the doctrine to Christ. John 7:16; 8:28; 12:49, 50).
2. Christ gave it to the apostles. (John 17:8, 14).
3. Apostles taught it to the church. (John 17:20; Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 2:12, 13; 11:2, 23; 2 Pet. 1:3).
4. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostles to speak and write the doctrine of Christ. (John 14: 16, 26; 16: 13; Acts 1: 8; 2: 1-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-13; Eph. 3:5, 6; 2 Pet. 1:3).
5. The New Testament was inspired of God. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
6. The doctrine was-recorded for our instruction. (John 20:31; 2 Pet. 1:14, 15; 3:1, 2).

III. Who Authorized The Doctrine That is Believed And Taught By The New Testament Church?

1. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. (Heb. 12:1; 2). The doctrine is not authorized by men. The church is not a legislative body. The church is subject to Christ. (Eph. 5:24).
2. The church has no right to change the doctrine of Christ. (2 John 9; Rev. 22:18, 19).
3. No pope, prelate, priest, nor preacher has the right to change it. (Gal. 1:6-19; 1 Tim. 1:3; 6:3-5).
4. No Association, Synod, Conference, nor Council can change it.

IV. The New Testament Church Was Warned Against False Doctrines.

1. The doctrines of men are dangerous. (Matt. 15: 9; Col.2: 20-22).
2. Doctrines of devils are dangerous. (1 Tim. 4:1, 2).

3. Only the doctrine of Christ is safe. (I Tim. 1:3, 4; 6:3-5; Gal. 1:6-9).
4. Strange doctrines carry men away from God. (Heb. 13:9; Eph. 4:14).
5. The church has been warned not to go beyond the doctrine of Christ. (2 John 9; Rev. 22:18, 19.)

V. Some Duties of Every Member of The Church:

1. Continue in the apostles' doctrine. (Acts 2:42).
2. Give heed to the doctrine. (1 Tim. 4:13-16).
3. Teach the doctrine of Christ. Acts 5:27,28; 8:4, Rev. 22:17).
4. Adorn the doctrine by good works. (Titus 2:10; Matt. 5:16).
5. Adorn the doctrine by pure speech. (Titus 2:1,7,8; 1 Tim.6:3).
6. Contend for the doctrine of Christ. (Jude 3).
7. Keep the faith-doctrine of Christ. (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS FAITH

I. Definition of Terms.

1. FAITH: "A system of doctrines or tenets;" "a belief;" "a religion."
2. The faith of a body of people is their belief and acceptance of certain system of religion. We speak of the Roman Catholic religion as the Roman Catholic faith, the Mormon religion as the Mormon faith, and the Methodist religion as the Methodist faith, etc.
3. The religious system taught in the New Testament is the faith of the Church of Christ, the church of the New Testament.

II. The Religious System Taught in the New Testament Is the Faith of Christians.

1. Jesus is the "author and finisher" (perfecter) of the Christian's faith. (Heb. 12:2)
2. The faith was once delivered to the saints. (Jude 3).
3. It was revealed in the gospel. (Rom. 1:16, 17; Gal. 3:23-25; Phil. 1:27).
4. It was preached by the apostles. (Rom. 10: 6-8; Gal. 1: 23).
5. There is only one faith authorized by the Lord. (Eph. 4:5).
6. All the apostles preached the same (like) precious faith. (2 Peter 1:1).

III. The Faith.

1. The faith is a precious faith. (2 Pet. 1:1).
2. It is a common faith for both Jew and Gentile. (Titus 1:4). (a) The Mosaic faith was a special faith for Israel. (b) Paul the Jew and Titus the Greek were united by a common faith.
3. It is a "most holy faith." (Jude 20). Patriarchal and Jewish faiths had been holy faiths, but the Christian religion is the MOST HOLY FAITH.
4. It is a perfect faith. Jesus perfected (finished) it. (Heb. 12:2).
5. It is the faith that overcomes the world. (1 John 5:4).

IV. The Faith is "Our faith." Christians Should:

1. Preach the faith. (Gal. 1:23).
2. Strive for the faith. (Phil. 1:27).
3. Contend earnestly for it. (Jude 3).
4. Continue in the faith. (Col. 1:23).
5. Live by the faith. (Gal. 2:20).
6. Be sound in the faith. (Titus 1:3).
7. Be built up in the faith. (Jude 20).
8. Be established in the faith (1 Cor. 16:13).
9. Keep the faith. (2 Tim. 4:6, 7; Rev. 14:12).

V. Christians Must Not:

1. Depart from the faith. (1 Tim. 4:1).
2. Deny the faith. (1 Tim. 5: 8; Rev. 2:13).
3. Be led astray (err) from faith. (1 Tim. 6:10).
4. Become "shipwrecked" concerning the faith. (1 Tim. 1:19 A. R.V.)

VI. Some Things Everybody Should Do:

1. Hear what the apostles say concerning the faith. (Acts 24: 24).
2. Become obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7).
3. Examine ourselves, whether we be in the faith. (2 Cor. 13:5).

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS IDENTITY

I. Does The New Testament Church Exist To-Day]

1. The gates of hell have not prevailed against it. (Matt. 16: 18).
2. It could not be destroyed. (Dan. 2:44; Isa. 9:6, 7; Luke 1:3033).
3. It could not be moved (shaken A.R.V.) (Heb. 12:28).
4. There are over six hundred religious bodies in the world. There could not be so many counterfeit bodies, if the genuine New Testament church was not in existence. The presence of the counterfeit is proof that the genuine exists.

II. Only One Religious Body Can Be Identical With the New Testament Church.

1. Every religious body bears one or more points of resemblance to the New Testament church.
2. One point of dissimilarity brands a religious body as a counterfeit of the New Testament church.
3. The Church of Christ is identical with the New Testament in every respect. It is the New Testament church.

III. How Can The New Testament Church Be Identified?

1. By its name. Things are identified by their names.
2. By the complete description of it that is recorded in the New Testament.
3. By certain distinctive marks of the New Testament church.
4. By the fruit it bears. (Matt. 7: 13-20).

IV. Its Identity.

1. Christ is the ONLY head. (Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18).
2. It is named for Christ. (Eph. 3: 14, 15; Acts 20: 28; Rom. 16: 16).
3. Its members wear but one name—Christian. (Acts 11:26).
4. It began at Jerusalem. (Acts 1:8; 2:5, 14).
5. Its origin dates from Pentecost, A. D. 33. (Acts 2:1).
6. Its "charter members" were Jews. Any church founded by Gentiles is not the New Testament church.
7. The New Testament is its ONLY rule of faith and practice.
8. It has the congregational form of government.
9. It observes weekly communion, partaking of the Lord's supper every Lord's day. (Acts 20:7).
10. It sings without instrumental accompaniment.
11. It is financed by its members contributing of their means upon the first day of the week. (1 Cor. 16:1, 2).
12. It must preach the same gospel the apostles preached. (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 1:6-9).

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS PRACTICES

1. The Word "Practice" is Defined as "The Frequent or Customary Action" of a Person or People.

1. The "customary action" of a body of religious people is called its "practice."
2. The practice of every body of people is governed by some law or "rule of action."
3. The New Testament is the only rule of faith and action of the New Testament Church, the Church of Christ.
4. The practice of the Jews was regulated to conform to the "traditions of the elders" (Matt. 15:1-6); the practice of Roman Catholics to the "writings of the church fathers"; the practice of Baptists to Baptist customs or "Baptist Usage," etc.

II. The Practice of The New Testament Church Is Limited:

1. To the observance of things authorized by Christ and the apostles. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42; 2 John 9).
2. To the things recorded in the New Testament. (2 John 9).
3. To the examples set by Christ and the apostles. (1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Pet. 2:21-23).
4. To the things delivered by the apostles to the church. (Acts 16:4; 1 Cor. 11:1, 2, 23; 2 Pet. 1:3).

III. The Church Was Taught to Observe All Things Authorized By Christ.

1. They observed all things taught them by the apostles. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42).
2. They observed the Lord's supper and contributed of their means every first day of the week. (Acts 20: 7; 1 Cor.16: 1, 2).
3. They taught sinners to believe, repent, and be baptized in order to be saved from their past sins. (Acts 2: 38; 16: 30-34; 22: 16).
4. They taught Christians to be faithful unto death. (Rev. 2: 10).
5. They immersed penitent believers into Christ. (Acts 2: 38; Rom. 6:1-4; Gal. 3:26, 27; Col. 2:12).
6. They used only vocal music in their worship. (Eph. 5: 19; Heb. 13:15).
7. They cared for their sick and for their poor. (Acts 2:44, 45; 4: 34-37).
8. They practiced purity of life and disciplined disorderly members. (1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 7:8-12).
9. They practiced self-denial. They sacrificed and suffered for the cause of Christ. (Matt. 16:24; Acts 8:1-4; 1 Thes. 2:14).

IV. Some Things The New Testament Church Did Not Practice:

1. Infant baptism. Sprinkling or pouring for baptism..
2. There were no mourners' bench conversions.

3. There was no voting on the reception of members.
4. They did not relate "experiences" as evidence of pardon.
5. They did not accept the pious unimmersed into the membership.
6. They did not keep the Jewish Sabbath.
7. They did not observe Lent, Easter, Christmas, nor holy days.
8. They did not use man-made instruments of music in their worship.
9. They did not engage talented singers to sing for them.
10. They did not raise money for church purposes by conducting shows, socials, suppers, fairs, festivals, etc.
11. They did not cater to the rich or to the cultured members.
12. They used no "publicity stunts" to attract attention to themselves or to increase their attendance at their services.

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS WORSHIP

I. What Does It Mean to Worship God?

1. To express with the lips the gratitude that is in our hearts for the goodness of God.
2. Silently meditating on the goodness of God and honoring Him by our adoration and reverence.
3. Mingling our prayers and our praise in all assembly of saints that continues in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, and the breaking of bread. (Acts 2: 42; 20:7).

II. The New Testament Church Assembled on The First Day of The Week—The Lord's day—To Worship God. Their Worship On That Day Included the Observance of The Lord's Supper And Their Contribution to The Lord's Work. (Acts 2: 42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-28; 16:1, 2).

III. How Did They Worship God?

1. In spirit and in truth. (John 4:21-24).
2. With spirit and in truth. (John 4:21-24).
3. With spirit and understanding. (1 Cor. 14:15).
4. Offered sacrifice of praise through Christ. (Heb. 13:15; Col. 3:16, 17).
5. They had no choirs, instrumental music, rituals, prayer books, etc.

IV. Their Worship Was:

1. Edifying. (1 Cor. 14:26).
2. Instructive. (teaching and admonishing. (Col. 3:16).
3. Congregational—all could participate.
4. Orderly. (1 Cor. 14:40).
5. Spiritual—"spiritual songs." (Eph. 5:19).
6. Comforting. (1 Cor. 14:31).
7. Authorized by the apostles. (Acts 2:42; Matt. 28:19).

V. Their Worship Was Not:

1. Entertainment. (Gal. 1:10; Rom. 16:18; (2 Tim. 4:3, 4).
2. A display of talent in singing, praying, preaching, etc.
3. Worldly (carnal). (Rom. 12: 1, 2).
4. Authorized by men. (Matt. 15:7-9).
5. A pretense (hypocritical lip service). (Matt. 15:7-9).

VI. The Purpose of Their Worship Was To:

1. Honor God. (Eph. 3: 21; Heb. 13:15).
2. Remember Jesus. (Luke 22: 19; 1 Cor. 11: 24).
3. Comfort, edify, and instruct one another. (1 Cor. 14:31; 14: 26; Col. 3:16).

II. Motives That Prompt Their Worship:

1. Love. (1 Cor. 13:1).
2. Gratitude (Grace, Col. 3:16). Desire to honor God. (Acts 4:23-28).

VIII. Their Worship on The Lord's Day Consisted of These "Items of Worship":

1. The apostles' teaching.
2. The fellowship (contribution)
3. The breaking of bread.
4. Prayers. (Acts 2:42).
5. Praise (Acts 2:47).
6. Singing of spiritual songs.
7. Exhortations. (1 Tim. 3:13).
8. Reading of Scriptures. (Eph. 5:19).
9. Preaching. (Acts 20:7). (1 Tim. 4: 13).

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS WORK

I. The New Testament Church Is a Family of Workers.

1. Salvation of members depends upon their works. (Phil. 2: 12).
2. Church is a body of workers called out from the world.
3. Church created in Christ Jesus to do good work. (Eph. 2:10).
4. God, Christ and Holy Spirit work through the church. (Phil. 2:13).
5. Christians do not work in any other institution. (Eph. 3:21).

II. The New Testament Church Is Sufficient of Itself For All The Lord's Work.

1. "Ye are complete in Him." (Col. 2:10).
2. They did not have societies, auxiliaries, sodalities, etc., to do the work of the church.
3. They were thoroughly equipped for their work. Their book of instructions was the inspired scriptures. (2 Tim. 3: 16, 17).
4. Every good work was authorized by the scriptures, and could be performed through the church.

III. What Was The Work of The New Testament Church]

1. Preaching the gospel—not politics; patriotism, current events, book reviews, etc. (2 Tim. 4:15; Acts 8:4).
2. Ministering to necessity of saints. (Acts 2:45; 4:32-36; Rom. 12:13; Heb. 6:10, 11).
3. Teaching the church. (Matt. 28: 18-20; Rom. 12: 7; Col. 3: 16).
4. Comforting, edifying, admonishing, encouraging one another.
5. All good works. (Heb. 10:24; Eph. 2: 10; Gal. 6: 10).
6. To glorify God. (Eph. 3:21).

IV. The New Testament Church' is The only Institution That Can Glorify God.

1. The church glorifies God by good works. (Matt. 5:16).
2. The societies glorify the societies by good works. The society gets the glory.
3. Fraternal societies (lodges) glorify themselves by good works.
4. The moral man glorifies himself by his good works. (Morality).

V. How Did The New Testament Church Work?

1. As one body with many members. (Rom. 12:4-9; 1 Cor. 12: 12-27).
2. In congregational capacity alone, without societies, etc.
3. Under direction of Spirit inspired apostles. (Matt. 28:18-20). (Teaching them to observe all things).
4. As individual Christians, honoring Christ and God through the church.

VI. There Is No Other Institution Through Which Christians Can Work Out Their Salvation. (Eph. 3:21; Phil. 2:12; Acts 4: 11-13).

1. We must work "in the Lord"—in Christ. (1 Cor. 15:58).
2. We must be "always abounding in the work of the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Cor 11:23).
3. We must work while it is "day." (John 9:4).
4. We must work to be acceptable to him. (2 Cor. 5:9).
5. We must be workmen that are not ashamed. (2 Tim. 2:15).

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS ORGANIZATION

I. The Church of The New Testament is Not a Human Organization, But Is a Divine Institution—A Family. It is The Family of God. (Eph. 3:15; 2:19; 1 Tim. 3:15).

1. We never speak of organizing our families; neither should we speak of organizing the church, the family of God.
2. The church is as complete as the family. The only thing that can be added to either is a new member. (Acts 2: 47).
3. We can create new offices in human organizations, but not in Divine institutions. The church and the family are Divine institutions.

II. The New Testament Church Has a Permanent Head--Jesus Christ.

God made his Son "to be the head over all things to the church." (Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18).

III. The New Testament Church Has Permanent Apostles.

1. The church still has the same apostles it had in the beginning. We have no more need of new apostles than we have of a new Christ.
2. Christ and the apostles occupy permanent positions over the church.
3. The apostles of Mormonism are false apostles. (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

IV. The Church Had Some Temporary Workers.

1. Prophets. The gift of prophecy ceased when the New Testament was revealed and recorded. (1 Cor. 13:8-10; 2 Pet. 1: 19; Rev. 22:18, 19).
2. Some men to whom God gave gifts of the Spirit for the guidance, government, protection, and instruction of the congregations. (1 Cor. 12:1-11, 28-31; Eph. 4:8-14).
3. Spiritual gifts were to cease. (1 Cor. 13:8-10; Eph. 4:11-14).

V. Each Congregation Had Its Own Elders and Deacons.

1. Elders were men appointed to have the oversight of the congregation. They were called "pastors, ' (Eph. 4:11); "bishops," (1 Tim. 3:1), "shepherds," (1 Pet. 5:1-4).
 - (a) A plurality of elders were appointed in a congregation.
 - (b) Their qualifications. (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-10).
 - (c) Elders were not to be "lords" over the church. (1 Pet.5:3)
 - (d) Christians are obedient to the elders. (Heb. 13:17).
2. Deacons were men appointed as assistants to the elders (overseers) and as servants of the congregation.
 1. Their qualifications. (1 Tim. 3:8-13).

VI. There Were Men in The New Testament Church That Preached The Gospel of Christ.

1. They were called: (a) Preachers (Rom. 10:14). (b) Ministers, (2 Cor. 3:6). (c) Evangelists (Acts 21:8; 2 Tim. 4-5).
2. They were to preach the Word. (2 Tim. 4:1 2).
3. They were to do the work of evangelists. (2 Tim. 4: 5).

VII. The New Testament Church Had No Popes, Cardinals, Archbishops, Clergy, District Superintendents, Presiding Elders, Etc.

VIII. The Preachers Used No Distinguishing Titles as "Rev.," "Holy Father," "Father," Etc.

1. There was no "Rev. Paul " "Pope Peter " "Father John," "Dr. Luke," etc.

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS GOVERNMENT

I. The New Testament Church Is Governed By One Head.

1. Christ is the head of the body, the church. (Eph. 1: 22, 23; Col. 1:18).
2. He has all power (authority) in heaven and in earth. (Matt. 28: 18-20) .
3. God gave Christ authority "to be the head over all things to the church." (Eph. 1: 22, 23).

II. The Church of Christ:

1. Is a body governed by one head. (Col. 1:18).
2. Is a bride governed by one husband. (Eph. 5:23, 24).
3. Is a kingdom governed by one king. (Acts 2:36).

III. What Form of Government Does The New Testament Church Have?

1. It is not democratic—a government by the people.
2. It is not republican—a government in which the supreme power is vested in representatives elected by popular vote.
3. The church is not a limited monarchy—a government in which the king has no power to make laws, but whose powers and privileges are limited.
4. The kingdom of Christ is all absolute monarchy—a kingdom in which all authority is vested in the king.

IV. The New Testament Church.

1. Is not governed by popes, prelates, priests or preachers.
2. Is not a legislative body—it does not make laws for its own government.
3. It is subject to Christ. (Eph. 5: 23; 1 Pet. 3: 22).
4. Christ is the Christian's King. (John 18: 36,37; Acts 2: 36).
5. The New Testament is the Christian's law-book. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
6. The Christian's citizenship is in heaven. (Philipp 3:20 A.R.V.)

V. How Are Local Congregations of The New Testament Church Governed?

1. Not by Associations, Synods, Conferences, etc.
2. Not by Presiding Elders, District Superintendents, etc.
3. Not by "majority vote"—Innovators use the "majority vote" to authorize the introduction of their innovations and unscriptural practices.
4. Not by "Evangelistic Courts"—courts composed of preachers.
5. Elders and deacons had charge of the affairs of the local congregation. (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Heb. 13: 17; 1 Pet. 5: 1-4).
6. Wise men could judge between brethren. (1 Cor. 6: 5).
7. Men of wisdom and experience should be leaders. (1 Cor. 16: 15,16).
8. Women are forbidden "to usurp authority over the man." (1 Tim.2:11-15).

VI. The Christian's Obligation to The Eldership or Leadership of The Local Congregation:

1. Christians should submit to elders and leaders. (1 Cor. 16:15, 16; Heb. 13:17).
2. Must obey them. (Heb. 13:17).
3. Should honor them that rule well. (1 Tim. 5:17).
4. Should co-operate with them in the Lord's work.

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

ITS MEMBERSHIP

I. Who Are Members of The New Testament Church?

1. The Saved. (Acts 2:47).
2. Penitent, baptized believers. (Acts 2:38-41).
3. Christians of all nations. (Acts 10: 34, 35; 15: 7-9; Rom. 1: 16; 10:12; 1 Cor. 12: 13; Eph. 2: 11-17; Col. 1: 20-24).
4. The unbaptized—"the pious unimmersed"--were never members of the Church of Christ.
5. Members of denominational churches are not members of the New Testament church.
6. There are no "associate members" of the body of Christ. Some congregations of the Christian church" fellowship the" pious unimmersed" as "Associate members."
7. Infants were not members of the New Testament church.
8. Idiots---people of weak intellects—are not members of the body of Christ.

II. How Did People Become Members of The New Testament Church?

1. They did not "join the church." The Lord added the saved to it.
2. They were not "voted into the church" after they were saved.
3. They did not "transfer their membership" from Judaism, paganism, denominationalism, but obeyed the gospel of Christ and the Lord added them to the church. (Acts 2: 36-41).
4. Penitent believers were baptized into Christ and the Lord added them to the church. (Acts 2:38-41, 47). This is the only way to be saved and to be added to the church.

III. The Membership of The New Testament Church Was Composed:

1. Of Jewish and Gentile Christians of all nations. (1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 1:5; Eph. 2: 11-17; Gal. 3:26-29).
2. Of bond servants and free men. (Gal. 3: 28; Col. 3:10, 11).
3. Of both men and women in Christ. (Gal. 3:28; Acts 5:14; 8:12).
4. Of rich and poor. (James 2:2, 3; Acts 4:32-37).
5. Of Servants and Masters. (Eph. 6:5-10; Col. 3:22-25; 4:1).
6. Of all that were in Christ. (Gal. 3:26-29). [Titus 2:9, 10).

IV. The Members of The Church Are Closely Related.

1. They are members of God's family. (Gal. 3: 26-29; Eph. 3:19).
2. They are members of the spiritual body of Christ. (Rom. 12: 4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12, 13; Eph. 5:29, 30; Col. 1:18).
3. They "are members one of another." (Rom. 12: 4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12, 13).
4. They are living stones in the spiritual house, the church. (Eph. 3:20-22; 1 Pet.

- 2:5).
5. They are fellow-citizens in the kingdom of Christ. (Eph. 3:19; Phil. 3:20, 21).

V. The Members of The Church Were Called "Christians." (Acts 11:26).

1. Christians have duties to perform. (John 14:15; Gal. 6:10).
2. Christians have responsibilities. (Phil. 2:12-16; 1 Tim. 3:15).
3. Christians have all spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3).
4. Christians have precious promises. (2 Pet. 1:4).
5. Christians have rewards. (Rev. 22:12).

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS PREACHERS

I. The Necessity of Preachers in The New Testament Church.

1. "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1: 21) .
2. "How shall they hear without a preacher." (Rom. 10: 14).
3. The word of God was made known through preaching. (Titus 1:3).

II. The Preacher.

1. The preacher must be all example to the believers. (1 Ti-m. 4: 12-16).
 - (a) In word, conversation, charity, spirit, faith, and purity.
 - (b) Paul's life all example to believers. (1 Cor. 9:27; 11:1; Phil. 4:9).
2. The preacher must be fearless in the face of persecutions.
 - (a) The apostles were imprisoned, reprimanded, persecuted, but ceased not to preach Christ. (Acts 5:42).
 - (b) Paul's many persecutions for the sake of the church. (2 Cor. 11:23-28; 2 Tim. 3:10-12).
3. The preacher must be set for the defense of the gospel (Phil. 1:16,17).
4. The preacher must speak the word boldly. (Eph. 6:20; Acts 9: 27,29 ; 19: 8).

III. Some Things The Preacher Must Do:

1. He must diligently study God's word. (1 Tim 4:13,16; 2 Tim. 2:15).
2. He must speak sound doctrine. (Titus 2:1).
3. He must preach the Word. (2 Tim. 4:1, 2).
4. He must rebuke "them that sin." (1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 4:2).
5. He must exhort sinners to obey Christ. (Acts 2.40; 2 Tim.4: 2).
6. He must exhort Christians to be faithful. (Acts 15: 32; 2 Tim. 4:2).
7. He must instruct in righteousness. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
8. He must commit the word to faithful men. (2 Tim. 2:2).
9. He must do the work of all evangelist. (2 Tim. 4:5).

IV. Preachers Are Under Obligation to Teach The New Testament Church:

1. Regular attendance on the part of every member at every service.
2. To "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (Titus 2:12; 1 Tim. 4: 12).
3. To "keep the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace." (Eph. 4: 1-3) .
4. To support the gospel of Christ. (1 Tim. 6:17-19; Gal 6:6; 1 Tim. 3:15).

5. To worship in spirit and in truth. (Jno. 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 14:15).
6. To work for the advancement of the cause of Christ. (Phil. 2:12-16).
7. To be obedient to the eldership. (Heb. 13:17).
8. To say, "Come," to those out of Christ. (Rev. 22:17).

V. Preachers Should Not:

1. Exalt themselves above the congregations but should consider themselves as servants (ministers). (1 Cor.3: 5-7; 2 Cor.4:5).
2. Do the work of the elders but do the work of evangelists. (2 Tim. 4:5).
3. Wear distinguishing titles as "Reverend," "Doctor," "Doctor of Divinity," "Bishop," "Father," etc.
4. Be covetous. (Acts 20:33; 1 Cor. 9:14-19; 1 Tim. 6:10, 11).

[Notes]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS GROWTH

I. The Growth of The New Testament Church is One-of The Most Marvelous Things in The History of Mankind.

II. The Church Grew From the Smallest of Beginnings to Become a "Great Mountain and Fill The Whole Earth." (Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45).

1. It was like the mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds, but becomes the greatest of herbs. (Matt. 13:31, 32; Mark 4:30-32).
2. It was like "leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." (Matt. 13: 33; Luke 13:20, 21).
3. It began at Jerusalem and spread to all nations. (Isa. 2:2, 3; Mic. 4:1, 2; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:5; 10:18; 16: 26; Col. 1:23).
4. The Lord has added countless thousands to the church since its beginning on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:41, 47; Rev. 7 9).
5. The church made its greatest growth during the first century of its existence.

III. The New Testament Church Grew:

1. In numbers. (Acts 2:41, 46; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 8:12; 21:20).
2. In Favor (influence) with all the people. (Acts 2:46).
3. In Grace and Knowledge. (1 Pet. 3:18; Acts 2:42; 4:33).
4. In Faith and Charity. (2 Thess. 1:3).

IV. Why Did The Church Grow?

1. They continued in the apostles' doctrine. (Acts 2:42).
2. They were of one heart and of one soul. (Acts 4:32; John 17: 20-22) .
3. They cared for their poor. (Acts 2:44, 45; 4:32-37).
4. They were liberal in support of the gospel. (Acts 4:32, 33; 2 Cor.8:1-5; Phil. 4:14-19).
5. They were "labourers together with God." (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1; Phil. 2:12, 13.)
6. They kept the church pure. (Acts 5:1-11; Jas. 1:27; Eph. 5: 25-27).
7. They suffered persecution. (Acts 8: 4, 5; Font. 5: 3-5; 8: 35-39).

V. The New Testament Church Grew Because:

1. It was planted by the Heavenly Father. (Matt 15:13).
2. It was produced from good Seed. (Luke 8:11; 1 Pet. 1:23-25).
3. It was God's Husbandry. (1 Cor. 3:9; John 15:1-8).
4. It was cared for by God's Workers. (1 Cor. 3: 5-9; Heb. 13: 17).
5. The soil was good. (Luke 8:8. 15; Acts 2:41).
6. God gave the increase. (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 3:6, 7).
7. Persecution scattered it. (Acts 8:4, 5; Phil. 1:12-14).

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS HISTORY

I. The History of The New Testament Church.

1. History is a record of past events. Prophecy is a revelation of future events.
2. The New Testament has one book of history—THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. It is all inspired history of the first thirty-five years of the existence of the church.
3. The New Testament has one book of prophecy—THE REVELATION. It is a book of symbols portraying the persecutions, apostasy, struggles and ultimate triumph of the church.
4. Uninspired men have written "Church History" from the close of the Apostolic age to the present.

II. The History of The New Testament Church May Be Divided Into The Following Periods:

1. Period of Purity. The period of purity began on Pentecost and continued during the lifetime of the apostles.
2. Period of Departure. The period of departure was predicted by the apostles and took place after their death. (Acts 20: 28-31; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 1-5; 2 Pet. 2:1, 2; Jude 17-19).
3. Period of Apostasy. The period of departure was followed by a great apostasy. The union of church and state by Emperor Constantine in 324 A. D., the writing of the Nicene creed, and the Edict of Catholicity in 380 brought about the great apostasy. The great apostasy was predicted by the apostle Paul. (2 Thess. 2:3-12).
4. Period of Reformation. The church passed through a period of reformation that began during the latter part of the fourteenth century. Efforts were made to reform Romanism, but failing to do this, they withdrew from it and formed new denominations.
5. Period of Restorations. A movement to restore "the ancient order of things" that began early in the nineteenth century by Barton W. Stone, Thomas and Alexander Campbell, and others.
6. Period of Digression This period of digression began in 1849 the year THE AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY was organized. Instrumental music was first used by a Church of Christ in 1870 in At. Louis, Missouri.
7. Period of Indifference. This period reaches to the present time.

III. The Coming of Christ Will Be a Day of Triumph for The Church.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS PERPETUITY

I. The Perpetuity of The New Testament Church.

1. Jesus built it and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. (Matt. 16:18).
2. It is a plant that our Heavenly Father has planted and it cannot be "rooted up." (Matt. 15: 13) .
3. It is a kingdom that God established and can never be destroyed. (Dan. 2:44; 7:13, 14).
4. It is the kingdom that God gave to his. Son and can never end. (Luke 1: 30-33).
5. It is the kingdom that God gave to the apostles of Christ and it can never be moved. Luke 12 : 32; Heb. 12 : 28; Matt. 19: 28).

II. The New Testament Church.

1. The church was created by miracle. (Acts 1:6-8; 2:1-36).
2. It is propagated by seed—the Word of God. (Luke 8: 11; 1 Pet. 1:23-25) .
3. It is perpetuated by the power and protection of God. (Eph. 1:19-23; Heb. 3:5, 6; 12:28, 29).

III. The Church Has:

1. Never-Dying Head. (Rev. 1:18; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 6:9).
2. A Law that endureth forever. (Matt. 24:35; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Heb.13:20).
3. A Name that shall never be cut off. (Isa. 56: 5; Acts 11: 26).
4. An Ever Living Fountain Stone—Christ. (Acts 4:11, 12; 1 Pet. 2:4-8).
5. Living Stones—Members. (1 Pet. 2:5; John 14:19).
6. Obedient Members who shall abide forever. (1 John 2: 17; 5: 11-13).
7. An Eternal Home. (1 Pet. 1:4; John 3:16).

IV. The New Testament Church is Completely Equipped to Perpetuate Itself.

1. It can preach the gospel. (Acts 8:4, 5; 1 Pet. 1:23-25).
2. It is the "pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Tim. 3:15).
3. It can train its workers for service. (2 Tim. 3:14-17).
4. It can edify itself—strengthen itself. (Eph. 4: 15, 16).
5. It can defend itself against its enemies. (Titus 1: 9-11; Jude 3).
6. It can finance its own activities. (1 Cor. 16:1, 2).
7. It is complete in Christ. (Col. 2: 10; 2 Tim. 3-16, 17).

V. The New Testament Church Can Be Perpetuated Without:

1. The Society system—Missionary, Mite, Ladies' Aid Societies, etc.
2. Financial support from the world.
3. The introduction of innovations. (2 John 9).
4. The endorsement of Denominationalism.
5. Conforming to the world. (Rom. 12:1, 2).

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS PURITY

I. The New Testament Church is The Bride of Christ.

1. His bride must be pure. (2 Cor. 11:1-3; Eph. 5:25-27).
2. He loves his pure bride, the church. (Eph. 5:25).
3. He purchased a pure church with His own blood. (Eph. 5:25).
4. He cleansed it by the washing of water by the word. (Eph. 5:26).
5. He separated it from the world—sanctified it. (Eph. 5:26).
6. It is glorious in its purity. (Eph. 5:27).
7. It must not have spot or wrinkle or any such thing. (Eph. 5:27)
8. It must be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:27).

II. The Church Is Pure—

1. When it doesn't conform to the world. (Rom. 12:1, 2).
2. When it keeps itself unspotted from the world. (Jas. 1:27).
3. When it is separate from the world. (John 17: 14-22; 2 Cor. 6: 17, 18).
4. When its members are pure in heart and life. (Matt. 5:8; 1 John 3:3).
5. When its worship is not corrupted by the commandments of men. (Matt. 15: 7-9).
6. When it preaches the pure, unadulterated gospel of Christ. (Gal. 1:6-9).
7. When the minds of its members are not corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (2 Cor. 11:1-3).
8. When it continues in the apostles' doctrine. (Acts 2: 42; 2 John 9).
9. When it is free from the corruption of Judaism, paganism, Romanism, denominationalism and digression.

III. How Is The Purity of The Church Preserved?

1. By strict adherence to the apostles doctrine. (Acts 2: 42; 2 John 9).
2. By the vigilant oversight of efficient elders. (Acts 20:28-32).
3. By strict-discipline. (1 Cor. 5: 1-5; Acts 5:1-11).
4. By the teaching of godly preachers. (1 Tim. 4:12-16; Titus 2: 11-15).
5. By rejecting heretical preachers. (2 John 10, 11; Rev. 2:2).
6. By neither bearing nor condoning evil. (Rev. 2:2; 1 Cor. 5: 1-7).
7. By suffering persecution. The fires of prosecution burned the dross from the church and left it pure. (Rom. 8:35-39; 1 Cor. 3: 12-15; 1 Pet. 4: 12-19).

IV. A Pure Church Must Have—

1. A Pure Head—Christ. (Col. 1:18; 1 Pet. 2:21-25).
2. A Pure Law—The New Testament. (2 Tim. 3: 16, 17, Psa. 12: 6)
3. A Pure Membership. (1 Pet. 1 22; 1 John 3:1-3).
4. A Pure Religion. (Jas. 1: 26, 27).
5. A Pure Worship. (John 4:22-24; Matt. 15:7-9).
6. A Pure Purpose—glorify God. (Eph. 3:21).
7. A Pure Home—Heaven. (2 Pet. 3:13-14; Rev. 21:1-4).

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS GLORY

I. The New Testament Church Is The Most Glorious Institution In The World.

1. Jesus built a glorious church. (Matt. 16: 18; Ralph. 5: 25-27).
2. He gave His glory to the church. (John 17:20-22).
3. The Spirit of glory rests upon the church. (1 Pet. 4: 14).
4. The church is the glory of Christ. (Eph. 5: 23-27; 1 Cor. 11: 7). The church is His bride. "The woman is the glory of the man."
5. The church glorifies God through Christ. (Eph. 3:21).
6. Jesus shall come for his glorious church. (Eph. 5:23-27).

II. The New Testament Church is Glorious:

1. It has a glorious head.
 - (a) Christ is the head of the church. (Eph. 1: 22, 23; 4: 15, 16; 5:23; Col. 1:18).
 - (b). The church was not built before he was glorified. (Luke 24:25, 26; John 7:39).
2. The glory of Christ is in the church. (John 17:20-22).
3. It has a glorious law—the gospel of Christ. (2 Cor. 3: 11; 4: 4; 1 Tim. 1:11). No institution is more glorious than its law.
4. It has a glorious name. (1 Pet. 4:14-16; 2 Thess. 1:12; Eph. 3:14, 15).
 - (a) The Lord's name is glorious. (Isa. 42:8; 48:11; 62:2; 1 Pet. 4:14).
 - (b). The name of the Lord is glorified in the church. (2 Thess. 1:12) .
 - (c) The church is glorified by the flange of the Lord---"ye in Him." (2 Thess. 1:12; 1 Pet. 4:14).
5. It is the bride of Christ. (Eph. 5:23-27).
 - (a). The bride (wife) is the glory of the man (husband). (I Cor. 11:7).

III. The Glory Of THE Church Is Divine.

1. God gave glory to the church. (Isa. 46:13; John 17:22).
2. Christ gave glory to the church. (John 17:22).
3. The glory of the Holy Spirit rests upon the church. (1 Pet. 4: 14)

IV. The Glory of The Church Is Eternal.

1. The church will glorify God "throughout all ages, world without end." (Eph. 3: 21).
 - (a) The glory of man shall perish as "the flower or grass." (1 Pet.1:24).
 - (b) Human organizations and their glory must perish. (Matt. 15:13; Heb. 12:26-29).

V. The Church Is Glorious:

1. When it is a clean church. (Eph. 5:25-27; Jas. 1:27; 2 Cor. 8:17,18).
2. When it is a holy church. (Eph. 5: 25-27; 1 Pet. 1: 14-16).
3. When it is a faithful church. (Rom. 1:8 Rev. 2:10).
4. When it is a working church. (Phil 2: 12-16; 1 Thess. 1: 3).
5. When it is an obedient church. (Acts 2:42; 5:29; Rev. 22:14).
6. When it is a united church. (John 17: 20-22; 1 Cor. 1: 10; Eph. 4:1-3)
7. When it abides in the doctrine of Christ. (Acts 2:42; 2 Jno. 9).
8. When it worships scripturally. (John 4:22-24; Col. 3:16, 17).
9. When it wears name of Christ (Eph. 3:14, 15; 1 Pet. 4:14-16).
10. When it preaches the gospel (Acts 8:4, 5; 1 Tim. 3:15; Rev. 22:17).
11. When it cares for Its poor. (Acts 2:44, 45; 4:32-35).

[Notes]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS UNITY

I. The Unity of The New Testament Church Was One of Its Important Characteristics.

1. Jesus prayed for it. (John 17:20-22).
2. The apostles pleaded for it. (1 Cor. 1:10; 3:3-5; Eph. 4:1-6; Phil. 1:27; 2:1, 2).
3. The church practiced it. (Acts 4:32).

II. The Unity of The New Testament Church:

1. Was not a union of conflicting forces.
2. Was not a federation of denominations. (There were no denominations then; neither should there be any now).
3. Was not all alliance of religions. They preserved their unity by opposing all other religions.

III. Jew and Gentile, Bond and Free, Male and female, Were All One in Christ. (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-29; Col. 3:11).

IV. They Were All One in Christ.

1. They believed the same gospel. (Mark 16:15, 16; Rom. 1: 16; Gal. 1:6-9).
2. They had obeyed the same gospel. (Acts 2:38-41; Rom. 6:16-18).
3. They had been added to the same church. (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13).
4. They kept the same ordinances. (1 or. 11:2; Matt. 28:20; Acts 2:42).
5. Continued in the same doctrine. (Acts 2:42; 2 John I).
6. They wore the same name. (Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:14-16).
7. They were of the same mind. (Acts 4:32; 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 1:27).
8. They spoke the same thing. (1 Cor. 1: 10; Gal. 1: 6-9).
9. They walked by the same rule. (Gal. 6: 16; Phil 3: 16).
10. They had the same love one for another. (Phil. 2:2).

V. The New Testament Basis For Unity.

1. One God and Father of all. (Eph. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; Rom. 3:29, 30).
2. One Lord. (Acts 2:36; Eph. 4:5; Rom. 19:12).
3. One Spirit. (Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:13).
4. One Body (church). (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23; Col. 1:18, 24; 1 Cor. 12:13).
5. One Faith. (Eph. 4:5; Gal. 1:23; Heb. 12-2; Jude 3).
6. One Baptism. (Eph. 4:5; Rom. 6:1-4; Col. 2:12).
7. One Hope. (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:23).

VI. The Unity of The New Testament Church:

1. Should be like that which exists between God and Christ. (John 17:20-22).
2. Should be like that which exists between members of the physical body. (Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:13, 14; Eph. 4:16).
3. Should be like that of husband and wife. (Eph. 5:25-33).
4. Should be "fitly joined together." (Eph. 4: 16).
5. Members should "be knit together in love." (Col. 2:2).

III. Reasons For Unity.

1. Good and pleasant fellowship of God's people. (Ps. 133:1).
2. The prayer of Jesus. (John 17:20-22).
3. That the world might believe. (John 17:20-223).
4. That the church might be glorious. (John 17: 22).

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS CHARACTERISTICS

I. The New Testament Church Was The Model Church and Met The Approval of God.

II. The New Testament Contains a Record of The Things That were Characteristic of The Church.

III. The New Testament Church Was:

1. A Saved Church. (Acts 2: 41, 47).
2. A Continuing Church. (Acts 2:42, 46).
3. A Stedfast Church. (Acts 2:42, 46).
4. A Worshipping Church. (Acts 2:42).
5. A God-fearing Church. (Acts 2: 43; 5:5, 11; 9:31).
6. A Liberal Church. (Acts 2:44, 45; 4:32-37).
7. A Benevolent Church. (Acts 2:44, 45; 4:32-37).
8. A United Church. (Acts 2:46; 4:32).
9. A Happy Church. (Acts 2:46; 5:41).
10. A Praying Church. (Acts 2:42; 4:31; 12:12).
11. A Growing Church. (Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7).
12. An Influential Church. (Acts 2:47).
13. A Preaching Church. (ACTS 4:19, 20, 33; 5:42; 8:4, 5).
14. A Suffering Church. (Acts 4: 1-3; 5: 40, 41; 7: 54-60; 8: 1-4).
15. An Obedient Church. (Acts 4:18-20; 5:29).
16. A Disciplining Church. (Acts 5:1-11).
17. A Busy Church. (Acts 2: 46; 5: 42).
18. A Glorious Church. (Eph. 3:21; 5:25-27).
19. A Pure Church. (Eph. 5:25-27).
20. A Holy Church. (Eph. 5:25-27).

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS SIMILITUDES

I. The New Testament Church is Said to Be Like Certain Things With Which Everybody is Familiar.

1. Similitudes used were not peculiar to one nation, but are things with which all nations were familiar.
2. They were used in order to show the relationship that existed between Christ and the Church.
3. They were used to show the unity and perfection of the Divine institution, the church.

II. The Church Is:

1. A Living Body. (Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12: 162-27; Eph. 1:22,23; 2:16; 4:4, 15, 16; 5:23; Col. 1:18,24).
2. The Bride of Christ. (Eph. 5:23-33; 2 Cor. 11:1, 2; Rev. 22: 17).
3. A Building. (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:9; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5).
4. A Flock. (John 10:14-16; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-5).
5. A Fold. (John 10: 1-5, 16).
6. A Family. (Eph.3:15; 4:6; Gal.3: 26-29; 4:6,7; 1 John 1:3).
7. A Plant. (Matt. 15:13; 1 Cor. 3:6-9).
8. A Purchased Possession. (Eph. 1:14; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1: 18-20).
9. A Tabernacle. (Heb. 9:1).
10. A Temple. (Eph. 2:21).
11. A Vineyard. (John 15:1-8; 1 Cor. 3:9).
12. A Kingdom (Dominion). (Matt. 16:18, 19, 28; 1 Cor. 4:20; Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:9).

[Notes]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS PRIVILEGES

I. Certain Rights and Privileges Belong to The New Testament Church.

1. No other religious body can rightfully claim the privileges that God has granted to the New Testament Church.
2. Christ purchased these privileges for the church with His own precious blood.

II. Members of The New Testament Church Enjoy These Privileges:

1. Of being children of God. (1 John 3:1, 2; Gal. 3:26-29).
2. Of calling God their "Father." (Gal. 4:6).
3. Of wearing the family name—CHRISTIAN. (Eph. 3:15; Acts 11:26).
4. Of praying to God. (1 Pet. 3:12; Gal. 4:6).
5. Of coming to the Lord's table. (1 Cor. 11:23-34).
6. Of fellowship with God's people. (1 John 1:7).
7. Of being heirs of God. (Gal. 4:7; Rom. 8: 16, 17).
8. Of coming to (God for help. (Heb. 4:16).
9. Of enjoying all spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3).
10. Of helping to save the lost. (Jas. 5:19, 20).
11. Of saying, "Come," to others. (Rev. 22:17).
12. Of giving to the Lord's work. (1 Cor. 16: 1, 2; 2 Cor. 8: 1-5).
13. Of being with Christ. (Phil. 1:23; 1 Thess. 4:15-18).
14. Of being like Christ. (1 John 3:1,2).
15. Of coming to the tree of life. (Rev. 22: 14).
16. Of entering the city of God. (Rev. 22: 14).

III. These Privileges Are:

1. Precious. (2 Pet. 1:4).
2. Blood-bought. (1 Pet. 1:18, 19).
3. For the faithful in Christ. (Eph. 1:3).
4. For our good. (Eph. 3:14-21; 1 John 3:3).
5. For God's glory. (Eph. 3:21).
6. For the good of others. (Matt. 5: 13-16.)

[NOTES]

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS PERFECTION

I. The New- Testament Church is The Only Perfect Church That Has Ever Existed.

1. Churches of later origin fall far short of perfection.
2. Men have never been able to build a better church than the one that Jesus built.
3. The New Testament Church—the Church of Christ—is the only perfect church in the world.
4. Man can add nothing to it, not even a new member. Acts 2:47.

II. The Perfection of the New Testament Church.

1. The church is complete in Christ. (Col. 2: 10).
2. It is completely furnished unto every good work. (2.Tim. 3: 16, 17).
3. It is a perfect soul-saving institution. (Acts 2:47; 4:11, 12; Rev. 22:17).
4. It is the only perfect benevolent institution in the world. (Acts 4:32-37).
5. It can offer perfect praise and worship to God. (John 4: 22-24; Heb. 13:15; 1 Cor. 14:16).
6. It is the perfect support of the truth. (1 Tim. 3:16).
7. It is perfectly adapted to all of man's spiritual needs.

III. The NEW Testament Church Has:

1. A perfect head—Christ. (Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:23; Col. 1:18).
2. A perfect Law—the New Testament. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Jas. 1: 25).
3. A perfect Foundation—Christ. (Acts 4:11, 12; 1 Cor. 3:11; 1 Pet. 2:4-8).
4. A perfect Name—name of Christ. (Acts 4: 11, 12; Rom. 16: 16).
5. A perfect Fellowship---all one in Christ. (Acts 2: 42; Gal. 3: 28).
6. A perfect System of Worship. (John 4:22-24; Heb. 13:15).
7. A perfect System of Government—Elders and Deacons. (Acts 20:28; Phil. 1: 1; 1 Pet. 5: 1-4).
8. A perfect Financial System. (1 Cor. 16:1, 2; 2 Cor. 9:7).

IV. The Church of Christ:

1. Was built by a perfect Being—the Son of God. (Matt. 16: 18; Acts 2:47).
2. Was purchased by a perfect Sacrifice--the blood of Christ. (Acts 20: 28; 1 Pet. 1: 18-20).
3. Is subject to a perfect Head—Christ. (Col. 1: 18; Eph. 5: 22-24).
4. Its members wear a perfect Name—Christian. (Acts 11: 26; 1 Pet. 4:16).
5. It has a perfect Example to follow—life of Jesus. (1 Pet. 2: 21-25).
6. It walks by a perfect Rule—the New Testament. (Rom. 12: 1, 2; Phil. 3:15-17).
7. It enjoys perfect Blessings—all spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3).
8. It shall have a Perfect Home—heaven. (John 14:1-3).

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ITS TRIUMPHS

I. The Establishment of The Church Was a Victory Over the Forces Of Evil.

1. It was necessary for Jesus to conquer death before the church could be built. (Matt. 16:18-21; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 2:30-36).
2. "The gates of hell" could not prevent Jesus from building it.
3. The Roman government, with all its power, could not prevent the resurrection of Jesus.
4. The powerful Jewish religion could not prevent the building of the church.
5. The establishment of the church was a victory over death, hell, and the grave. (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:30-36; Rev. 1-18).

II. The New Testament Church Has Been Victorious:

1. Over great nations—Roman Empire. (Dan. 2:44; Ps. 2:1-12; Acts 4:23-30).
2. Over great religions—Judaism, Paganism, Romanism, Mohammedanism, Denominationalism and Digressive churches.
3. Over Idolatry. (1 Cor. 12: 2; Acts 17: 16-34; 19: 23-41) .
4. Over Sorcery. (Acts 8:9-13; 19:13-20).
5. Over Infidelity.
6. Over Sin and Satan. (Rom. 6: 16-18; 8: 1-4; 1 John 2: 13, 14).
7. Over the World. (John 16:33; 1 John 5:4, 5).
8. Over Persecution. (Acts 8:1-4; Phil. 1:12-14; Rom. 8:35-39).

III. The New Testament Church is Triumphant Because:

1. It has a great Captain. (Heb.2:10; Col. 1:18; 2 Cor.2:14).
2. It has mighty weapons. (2 Cor. 10: 3-5; Heb. 4: 12; Eph. 6:17).
3. It is completely equipped. (Eph. 6: 10-17; 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17).
4. It has a faith that conquers. (1 John 5: 4, 5).
5. Suffering doesn't defeat it. (Rom. 8:35-39).
6. It conquers through Christ. (Rom. 8:37; 1 Cor. 15:57).

IV. The Ultimate Triumph of The Church. The Church Shall Be Triumphant at The Coming of Christ.

1. Over Death. (1 Cor. 15: 51-58; Rom. 8: 11; 1 Thess. 4: 13-18).
2. Over the Curse of Sin. (Rev. 22:3).
3. Over a World of Woe. (Rev. 21:1-4; 2 Pet. 3:10-13).
4. Over Hell. (Matt. 25:31-34, 46; Rev. 22:14).