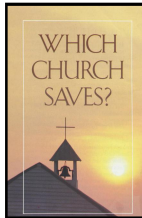


"...WHO...changed the TRUTH of God into a LIE..." ?

Evil men and seducers are out in force today, %ceiving, and being deceived... (2 TIM. 3:13), %TRANSFORMING THEMSELVES into the apostles of Christ (2 COR. 11:13).

There is a gospel tract in circulation with the title Which Church Saves, a very spiritually confusing question to ask. And, there was no trace of %repentance in its message.



However, we **KNOW** that Jesus said, %EXCEPT [UNLESS] ye REPENT, ye shall...PERISH [TO DESTROY FULLY] (LUKE 13:3,5), therefore, repentance SHOULD BE an **IMPORTANT PART** of any message of salvation.

Before answering the tract's question, the question should be, **WHAT IS THE MEANING OF CHURCH?** Is it a building, an organization, or a people?

In the scriptures, the word %church means %calling out of individuals, %to them who are THE CALLED according to his purpose (ROMANS 8:28), %who hath CALLED you OUT OF DARKNESS into his marvelous LIGHT (1 PETER 2:9).

Do you remember when **YOU** were called OUT OF DARKNESS, and into his marvelous **LIGHT**? If you don't, repent NOW before it's too late.

On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God came into the world, and united 120 believers in the upper room, into **ONE BODY**, %for by ONE SPIRIT are we ALL baptized into ONE BODY, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been ALL made to drink into ONE SPIRIT (1 COR. 12:13).

This was the beginning of the **TRUE invisible** church of the living God, who were called and welded together by faith. **WE** are built up a spiritual house, a temple of God **IN** which He dwells. We are %members of HIS body, of HIS flesh, and of HIS bones (EPHES. 5:30).

We are %of the HOUSEHOLD of God; and are BUILT upon the FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ HIMSELF being the CHIEF CORNER STONE; in whom ALL the BUILDING fitly framed together GROWETH unto an HOLY TEMPLE in the Lord: in whom YE also are BUILT TOGETHER for an habitation of God THROUGH the Spirit (EPHES. 2:19-22).

We are a **LIVING organism**, not a physical ORGANIZATION.

Jesus said, %the hour cometh, and NOW IS, when the TRUE WORSHIPERS shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth...God is a Spirit: and they that WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP HIM in spirit and in truth (JOHN 4:23).

We **DO NOT WORSHIP** in temples and buildings, but in spirit, and we assemble ourselves together for the purpose of exhorting one another (HEBREWS 10:25), and prophesying (1 COR. 14:23-25), that they who believe not might be saved.

So, how did the church become **KNOWN** as a **BUILDING**? The answer is simple: the **DEVIL**, %for he is a liar, and the FATHER of it (JOHN 8:44). Satan produces a counterfeit for everything God provides for man.

During the Jews captivity in Babylon, they were far away from their Temple in Jerusalem. So they resorted to prayer meetings, which evolved into synagogues, and a new order of teachers was established called scribes.

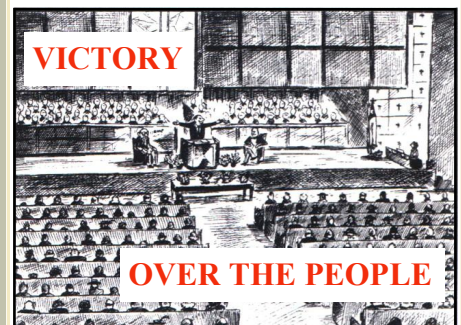


They even constructed a tall pole (a steeple) on top of the synagogue to make the building conspicuous. Then, they took this blueprint back to Israel.

Inside, and toward the middle of the building was a raised platform, and in the center, was a pulpit. The purpose of their service was not worship, but instruction.

Years later, on the day of Pentecost, not every one that heard the gospel by Peter believed, %not being mixed with FAITH IN THEM that heard it (HEBREWS 4:2). However, they still joined themselves to the brethren.

After Paul's death, these %grievous wolves entered in, assimilating their Jewish religious customs into Christian worship, and after the Roman Emperor Constantine's conversion, they made a league together, using Pagan temples as their new places of worship, %holding the doctrine of the NICOLAITANES, which thing I hate (REV. 2:15), and the Roman Catholic Church was born.



The word %Nicolaitanes comes from the Greek word %Nikolaos: **NIKO** means %victory, and **LAOS** means %over the people, and the system of organized Christianity began.

The Apostle John may have been **EX-COMMUNICATED** by this new system of authority: %wrote unto the church: but DIOTREPHES, who loveth to have the PREEMINENCE among them, RECEIVETH US NOT (3 JOHN 1:9).

The System of Clergy and Laity was not authorized by our Lord Jesus Christ, and this is why:

%We know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise DOMINION over them; and they

To the TRUE CHURCH: "...I also will keep thee from the HOUR of TEMPTATION"

that are **GREAT** exercise authority upon them. But it **SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU**: but whosoever will be **GREAT AMONG YOU**, let him be your **MINISTER**; and whosoever will be **CHIEF** among you, let him be your **SERVANT**: even as the Son of man came **NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO**, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many+ (MATTHEW 20:25-28), %**For I have given you an EXAMPLE, that ye should DO as I have DONE TO YOU**+ (JOHN 13:15).

Since organizations cannot function for long without money, the doctrine of **GIVING** was changed. Tithing, which pertained to the tribe of Levi, was also incorporated as Christian doctrine.



In the Old Testament, God commanded **NOT TO GLEAN** %**thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger**+ (LEVITICUS 19:10 & DEUT. 24:21). It is in this spirit of giving that true Christians give to others, by %**distributing to the necessity of saints**+ **NOT** the building fund.

But as the years went by, true Christianity grew weaker in numbers, while the apostate church abounded and multiplied, while still enjoying the **PREEMINENCE** as in the days of John.

She has become %**the GREAT WHORE that SITTETH upon MANY waters: with whom the kings of the earth have COMMITTED FORNICATION, and the inhabitants of the earth have been MADE DRUNK with the wine of her fornication**+ (REV. 17:1,2).



In Rev. chap. 2 & 3, a clear picture of the history of the church is seen through the messages given to the seven churches, each representing a period in history up until this moment.

This Great Whore has offspring, protestant churches who, like their mother, %**teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols**+ (REV. 2:20-23).

Quote of the week 10-29-88

“My sister-in-law fears that when she gets to purgatory no one on earth will still believe in it to pray for her and she will be stuck there.”

FC

Fr. William Flaherty
in November 1988 issue of U.S. Catholic
Magazine on the fading belief in purgatory

The message today is, %**Come out of her, my people, that ye be not PARTAKERS of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues**+ (REV. 18:1-4).

Just as the sons of Samuel the prophet %**turned aside after LUCRE, and took bribes, and perverted judgment**+ (1 SAMUEL 8:3), so do these church systems that %**through covetousness shall they with FEIGNED WORDS make MERCHANDISE of YOU**+ (2 PETER 2:3).

The part of church history we are living in today deals with the last two of the seven church messages. Jesus **FOUND NO FAULT WITH** just two of the seven churches: The second church in Smyrna, when the church went through great persecution at the hand of Roman Emperor Nero, and the sixth church in Philadelphia, representing the believers that are living today.

We are of the church that has %**little strength, and hast KEPT MY WORD, and hast not DENIED MY NAME**+ (REV. 3:8).

Since the antichrist is soon to come, we have been given a **PROMISE**: %**Because thou hast KEPT the WORD OF MY PATIENCE, I also will KEEP THEE from the HOUR OF TEMPTATION [THE GREAT TRIBULATION], which shall come upon ALL the world, to TRY them that dwell upon the earth**+ (REV. 3:10).

True Christianity

Today, we, the true believers in this portion of church history, are temporally co-existing with the seventh, and last church, the church of the Laodiceans.

We are few in number because %**STRAIT is the gate, and NARROW is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW THERE BE that find it**+ (MATT. 7:14). When the Lord comes for us, to meet Him in the air, our departure will not be missed.

Jesus said, %**where two or three are gathered together IN MY NAME, there am I in the midst of them**+ (MATT. 18:20). But this is **NOT SO** in the Laodicean church, because Jesus said again, %**another shall come IN HIS OWN NAME, him ye WILL receive**+ (JOHN 5:43).

This church numbers in the millions, and is the **ONLY** church where it is said, %**Behold, I stand at the door, and KNOCK**+ (REV. 3:20). Jesus has been **REPLACED** by personal fame and attraction, increased riches, stirring music and beauty, while their service to God is **LUKEWARM**.

Don't **YOU** be lukewarm and %**take the good, and leave the bad**+ but be like **KING DAVID**, %**therefore I hate EVERY false way**+ (PSALM 119:104). %**BUY THE TRUTH, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding**+ (PROVERBS 23:23).

This is how to %**BUY THE TRUTH**+ Believe the Word of God. Tell God that you are **SORRY** for the wrong you have done, and ask Him to **FORGIVE** you and to **SAVE** you. Then, by faith, **THANK HIM** for saving you.