

Cover Page



An overview of the Church
from
Pentecost to Laodicea

What is Church

A study of the scriptural veracity of "Churches"

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to THE REMNANT. All those who find themselves orphaned from Churches. Especially those who hold to the principle that the Word of God is preserved by God in English. The (unaltered) King James Bible. Who are now separated from the so-called evangelical Church because they can not subscribe to churches who, while they hold to sound doctrine in their Statement of Faith pages but do not faithfully apply the doctrine of God's word in their constitution and or practice.

1Jo 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

and

1 ¶ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

4 ¶ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Foreword

When I look around me I am dismayed at the trend I see in what I used to think, comfortingly, was the Church. I had come to accept that people had many and differing ideas of what Church should look like. I had never been attracted to the liturgical services of the Lutheran and Anglican services having attended some I found the liturgy stiff and impersonal though I appreciated the words of the liturgy because they echoed scripture but it seemed to me that that was all it was, an echo of something that was grand and sometimes reassuring, but something that had died long ago and was perpetuated in memoriam by the sing song voice of the priest. The message of the sermon was a homily that encouraged us to do good and be good, to please God in the hopes that He would finally judge us worthy to join him in an afterlife of, presumably, more of the same.

Of course most of us did not really believe we were "good" nor that we would eventually attain to God's approval because, alas! we knew what was in our own scurrilous hearts and furtively suspected that we were all in the same mould. Having said that I am not suggesting that we are saved by membership in any Church save that of the Church of Lord Jesus Christ, that body of born-again believers who may incidentally be members of any denomination barring heretical sects who deny the deity of Christ Jesus.

MOST OF THE FREE (EVANGELICAL) CHURCHES ARE NO DIFFERENT.

The free churches and the independent and non-denominational churches were really not much different as I have observed them, except for those who really were evangelical, that is who really outreached in order to reach the souls of men/women to see them receive forgiveness of their sin and become "born-again." Seeking for the glory of Jesus, without any motive for money or power or even membership in their ranks.

Out of this maudlin state of affairs I was led by the Holy Spirit to toil, and I do mean toil, at prayerfully discovering a solution. With the Lord I seek for the believer who knows he is saved but now finds him/her self with Jesus outside of the door of the Church wondering if there is some poor soul willing to open the door and let Jesus come in.

If you have a similar desire read on for our goal is Christ Himself

Chapter 1 The Seed of the Church

Heb 1:1 ¶ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

I don't think that anybody remembers the first time they opened their eyes and were conscious of seeing something, anything! Doctor, midwife, mother, wall or ceiling. At that time you and I were ignorant of everything. Certainly unconscious of right or wrong. We had to learn everything from our parents or carers. About the only thing we did not have to learn was what to do when a food bearing teat was placed in our mouth. I expect that some poor souls had to learn even that.

A BATTLE BEGAN IN EDEN

When Adam was created, he was created a mature man. Nevertheless he learned from God with a great and perfect aptitude. When Man, Adam, fell from the place of walking with God it was because the woman, Eve, beguiled by the Serpent decided she wanted something more than God had freely given. A crucial error to which "religious" man is still prone. To be fair Adam was not beguiled he made a choice to "go" with Eve's sinful mistake because he loved her. Even though he knew the penalty was death - separation from his Creator God.

As a result Adam's fall from a walk of holiness before God, brought all mankind into death - separation from God is death: 1Co 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.* The Bible makes it clear that this "rescue" is from the beginning brought about through Faith in the vicarious death of God's only begotten Son, pictured analogously for us in the sacrifice by God of animals, taking their hides for coverings for Adam and Eve.

The Bible also teaches us that both they and their offspring Cain and Abel "got the picture", understood, that there would have to be a sacrifice made by the "seed" of the woman. Not yet having discerned the significance of this, Eve exclaims after Cain's birth *I have gotten a man from the LORD (Ge 4:1).* Eve did not understand that the "seed" would not be the seed of Adam but of the woman.

In the story of Genesis chapter 4 we see that Abel obeyed God by faith (Heb 11:4) and his blood sacrifice was approved by God because of his forward-looking belief in the coming "Seed of the Woman." Cain on the other hand rebelled and chose to go out of the presence of the Lord.

The first "revival" of Abel, or turning back to God in utter dependence on His promise of redemption was short lived, because of the vicious attack of the enemy through Cain. A phenomena evident continuously throughout history illustrated for us by Bunyan;

Then I saw in my Dream that the Interpreter took Christian by the hand, and led him into a place where was a Fire burning against a wall, and one standing by it, always casting much Water upon it, to quench it; yet did the Fire burn higher and hotter.

Then said Christian, What means this? The Interpreter answered, This Fire is the work of Grace that is wrought in the heart; he that casts Water upon it, to extinguish and put it out, is the Devil; but in that thou seest the Fire notwithstanding burn higher and hotter, thou shalt also see the reason of that. So he had him about to the backside of the wall, where he saw a man with a Vessel of Oil in his hand, of the which he did also continually cast (but secretly) into the Fire. Then said Christian, What means this? The Interpreter answered,

This is Christ, who continually, with the Oil of his Grace, maintains the work already begun in the heart:

Bunyan, John (2013-02-20). Pilgrim's Progress (pp. 25-26). Start Publishing LLC. Kindle Edition.

This was a continuing pattern of apostasy and revival since Cain and Abel, evident throughout the Scripture. After Seth was born and men began to call upon the name of the Lord. But by Genesis chapter 6 horrendous apostasy had become rampant.

AFTER THE FLOOD THE BATTLE CONTINUES

After the flood the fallen angels continued their war against God (Gen6:4b) *and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.* The Lord God in response to this state of affairs directed His remnant to wipe out the serpent's seed, result of the incursion of the rebellious Sons of God after the Flood.

De 20:16 But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:

17 But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:

1Sa 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

We understand today why God made such a dramatic and seemingly callous demand for the wiping out of children and even animals, because the DNA of mankind had been compromised by the interbreeding and who knows what other inventions, of these Luciferic Sons of God, fallen angelic spirit beings.(Job 1:6) Nevertheless God had promised He would never bring another global flood (Genesis 9:11) so he called His people Israel to join the battle against the wicked offspring of this unholy union with the "Sons of God". [Altering DNA Today](#)

THE FOREGOING IS ANATHEMA TO TRADITIONAL SCHOLARS

Many eschew the very idea that angels can cohabit with women to produce offspring. However we have learned that "*as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be in the days of the coming of Son of man.*" has a very real and rational probabilities in the light of massive reports of of what the UFO community calls "shape shifters." These reports are too many to be ignored - reports that "aliens" i.e. demons and unidentified flying objects (UFOs) i.e. demons have the capability to change shape and size to appear plausible to the observer. They have the ability to appear and disappear at will. I used to see some of these phenomena until I realized that 1) the phenomenon is real and 2) that it is a demonic manifestation. After I prayed that I would no longer encounter them, they ceased. If you research this subject on the Internet beware, the enemy is up to his usual tricks of obfuscation of the truth, there is far more rubbish, disinformation, promoted on the Web than there is truth.

THE ENEMY IS SUBTIL BUT THE ONGOING BATTLE IS REAL

Exod 19:3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;
4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and

brought you unto myself.

5 **Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:**

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

For a time it looked as if, under Joshua they might succeed in possessing the promised land, but alas men are men and just as the fallen angels got their eyes off God and fixed them upon the golden headed beauties of womankind the "Achans" of Israel fell upon the spoils of war including the women of the enemy. Isaiah tells us:

Isa 1:3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

7 Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

8 And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

9 **Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant,** we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Though we disappoint our Creator, He is not deterred from his eternal purpose to call out a people, a gathering. *Ge 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*

When Shiloh—the Messiah—came, the scepter of rule over Israel departed from Judah and rested in the hand of the King of Kings (Jesus), where it remains today, although many still reject Him. He is the Lawgiver at whose feet we now sit for teaching in truth and righteousness through His Word, the Bible. The "obedience of the peoples" was and still is offered to Him, replacing obedience to the law of Moses. From the beginning, there were great gatherings of people who heard Him preach and saw His miracles. Multitudes witnessed His death and His post-resurrection appearances. Multitudes more were converted to Christ, embraced His doctrines, professed His religion, and have lived in Him ever since. Here is the meaning of the "obedience of the peoples to him" (v. 10), which will continue until Shiloh comes again to rule and reign over all during the millennium. At that time, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father (Philippians 2:9-11). Source Logos website Read more:[Shilo](#)

Chapter 2 The Church in the Wilderness.

What we call Church and what God calls Church are two different things. As I studied this subject in God's word I have concluded that the Church that Jesus Christ built and is building on "this rock" (πετρα petra pet'-ra Mt 16:18) has much more to do with faith than religion. It certainly has nothing to do with buildings, rituals, religion and dogma. What God's idea of Church means we will explore in the following pages. Don't ask your priest, pastor or Bible College professor if what I am proposing is true ask the Holy Spirit to show you in the Scriptures. If the Lord shows you that what I am saying is true to the word of God go with that. If you believe that what I say does not align with the Scriptures (KJV) contact me (michael@tacsigs.com) and let me know your objection but let me say, quotes from other commentators of English Bibles later than 1611KJV will not be considered.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT A PRE-N.T. CHURCH?

The Bible is our final authority in matters of faith and doctrine, so if it is a matter of faith and doctrine, and it is, we will find the answer in God's Book of Books; and so in the Book of Acts we read:

Acts 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

38 **This is he, that was in *the church* in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Here the Bible is virtually telling us that the congregation of Israel is a Church in the meaning of the word in the New Testament. The word Church in the New Testament is εκκλησια ekklesia ek-klay-see'-ah (Strongs). The equivalent Bible word in Hebrew is עדah 'edah ay-daw' (Strongs) translated Congregation.

These two words "church" and "congregation" are used by us today almost synonymously to describe a Church gathering. Usually it indicates a gathering of more than two or three, but note that this distinction of number does not occur to the Lord who says, "*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*" (Mt 18:20)

I think this is saying that two or three persons gathered together to pray, worship Jesus and read the Scriptures constitutes a Church of Jesus Christ by His measure. Many larger churches/congregations have grown from this small beginning. As I write this I can hear wearers of the dog collar saying "Pshaw! you ignore our Apostolic succession!" to which I say, "Amen - there is no such distinction in the Bible."

I have noticed that one salient characteristic of God is that He is meticulously consistent in everything He says and does. Contradictory language or action is nothing less than lying - and God cannot lie (Tit 1:2). That being true God deals with man the same way in every dispensation, Pre-Flood, Post-Flood, Old Testament, New Testament. In every case salvation is a gift of God to those who have faith in the redeemer to come O.T. or who has come N.T, Jesus Christ the Lord.

It is Man and his mentor Lucifer, who wants to change the times and seasons in order to contradict God. This being the case we can look for other indicators that are consistent with God's disposition toward man in times past.

We have already discussed the concept of revival dating back to Genesis, can we discover indicators that God was actively choosing out a people for His Name prior to what we call Church today?

In God's Book of Books he refers to his "chosen ones" *O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones.* (1Ch 16:13) בחיר bachiyr baw-kheer' - chosen, choice one, chosen one, elect (of God). (Strongs)

Ro 8:29; Clearly states that that God's choosing (predestination) is based on His foreknowledge of man's will. This subject is discussed at length in my book: *The Battle Between Calvinism And Armenianism Ch.9;P80* What we are now considering is the way God views His corporate elect and how our view should coincide with His. If there are adjustments to be made they will be on our part not His!

The Church in the wilderness grew from one family whose progenitor was surnamed by God, Israel.

Ge 32:28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

It was in this encounter that the Church in the wilderness was born. God's surnaming of Jacob demonstrates God's foreknowledge of, not only the birth of a nation but also of God's fore-knowledge of the rigors awaiting His people. It seems to foreshadow the words of Christ to His fledgling Church *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* (Joh 16:33)

One thing we seem to have established this far is that the designation Church describes a people who belong to God as distinct from a people who belong to the world. The adversary has been doing his worst since Genesis 3 to entice, cajole, entrap or by any means turn men back into the world.

HOW WAS ABRAHAM'S PROMISE FROM GOD DIFFERENT

Abram whom God surnamed Abraham was prophesied by God:

Genesis 12:1 ¶ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

All families of the earth is a considerably wider scope than the blessing given to Israel. Later God led Israel to evangelize their world Ex 19:5-6

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NAMES IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO GOD

As we read God's word it pays handsomely if we seek out an understanding of the names in the narratives of the Bible. God who can influence our decisions in every moment of our lives, is able to "help" us pick a name for our offspring. Sometimes the name we pick for our child describes our hope for their subsequent life direction. Sometimes God influences our choice because He foresees the life direction that person will take. At other times, as in the case of Abram and Jacob and of course Jesus (Mt 1:21) God chooses the name or adds a surname to describe His aspirations for the Infant. In all but one of these they did not entirely live up to His expectations for them.

So it certainly behooves us to choose carefully when we choose names for our precious children. Also likewise, we should be meticulous in our assignation of names to ethnic groups, organizations and religious groups (denominations).

The Church in the Wilderness was a description, in that respect it was a name but its real name was Israel a name chosen by God. The New Testament Church is described in Mt 16:18 by definition Jesus did not assign any further name than My Church, but that has not hindered the "religious man" from assigning a name to the various groups to which he belongs. Baptist, Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and so on *ad nauseam*. This is what Paul warns against in 1Co 3:4.

Chapter 3 Recent Church History

WHAT IS THE REAL N.T. CHURCH?

Because confusion reigns on the religious denominational church scene it has become imperative that we spell out what we mean by the real New Testament Church. My description, which I think is shared by many other committed Christian believers today is that *My church* of Mt 16:18 refers to all those believers in Jesus Christ who are genuine disciples of Christ today, who may be found in any denomination. One of their increasingly obvious characteristics is that because they love the truth they are now leaving their denominational roots and are seeking fellowship with like-minded "truth seekers." Like sheep without a shepherd they live in spiritual jeopardy especially if they are foot-loose and single believers.

The one bright spot in this scenario is that today, we have every word of God preserved in English and for all who genuinely seek the Truth they do not need a priest to interpret to them. In Jesus' day people were expected to learn Greek to know God's word, today God expects folk to learn English or have an English speaking person (preacher) to explain His word to them. But, *he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.* (Heb 11:6)

Back in earlier days, the late seventeen hundreds, when the great revivals happened under George Whitfield (1714 –1770), Charles Finney (1792 –1875) , John Wesley (1703 – 1791) To those who have studied these revivals it is clear that they happened under the sovereign moving of the Holy Spirit. Although there were men whose lives were exemplary in holiness and devotion to God's will, it was the Almighty whom they petitioned that brought about this supernatural moving in men's souls, events that paralleled the move of the Spirit at Pentecost when about three thousand souls were added to the Church in one day. (Acts 2:41)

The period of 1880-1935 is sometimes called the Era of the Evangelists. [Evangelists - Moody](#). Bear in mind that Evangelism *per se* is not the same as revival. Successful evangelism is built heavily on prayer but prayer wrought revival may or may not have the preaching of an Evangelist triggering the move of the Spirit. The very word "revival" presupposes a return to a spiritual condition once abandoned or lost. The only One who can bring genuine revival is God the Holy Spirit.

PENTECOSTAL REVIVALS OF DELUSION 20TH. CENTURY.

Agnes Ozman (1870-1937) was a female student at [Charles Fox Parham's Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas](#). Ozman was considered by many as "*the first to speak in tongues*". Her experiences sparked the modern [Pentecostal-Holiness](#) movement, which began in the early 20th century.

This movement grew out of Methodism and embraced the holiness doctrine of John Wesley but then sought to explain this uninvited experience of unknown tongues by exploring the manifestation in the book of Acts. Parham encouraged his students to search the scriptures for information as to the relating to tongues:

...his students collectively agreed that if the Holy Spirit had descended upon an individual, then speaking in tongues would be present and constitute sufficient proof of that. The students pointed out that this type of event was mentioned four times in the Acts of the

Apostles. Therefore, on New Year's Eve, Parham and his students planned to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. In 1901, after midnight of January 1, Ozman asked her mentor to pray specifically so that she could be filled with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, so that she might speak in tongues [Parham](#)

Interested readers should follow the links under this heading for an in depth of understanding if the Pentecostal delusion. Let me say however that this movement which was born in the early 1900s was a radical fork in the road of evangelicalism.

THE FALLACY OF THE SECOND BLESSING

This was not revival but a misguided seeking for a "second blessing." The appeal was not to the gospel of Jesus Christ as clearly described in the New Testament doctrines of the Apostles. This is a soulish, if spiritual seeking for more that was given freely and explicitly declared by God.

1Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to **one** is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to **another** the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to **another** the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To **another** the working of miracles; to **another** prophecy; to **another** discerning of spirits; to **another** divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing **to every man severally as he will.**

12 ¶ For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 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.**

The baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit is not an event separate from conversion but is an evidence of it. Carefully read Acts 18:24-19:7 in the received text Stevens 1550 the phrase in 19 *since ye believed* *gk. pisteuosantes* equates to "since you have believed or now you have believed. In this instance Paul expected if they were baptized into Jesus Christ they would have automatically have received the Holy Spirit.

His question was not have you received the gift of Tongues? But have you received the Holy spirit since i.e. now you've believed? The purpose for the sign of tongues is an entirely different issue and relates to the Gospel coming to the Jews whom Paul calls "learned unbelievers" in 1Corinthians 14

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? (cf acts 2:11-16)

These were learned in God's law but not in the New Testament Law of Grace *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.* (Joh 1:17)

KEEP ON BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT!

There are many blessings for the believer, first at conversion. Then God commands us to pursue the fullness of the Holy Spirit continuously:

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
And gives us instruction on how to do this...

Eph 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

21 ¶ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Think this through. Any person who is full of the Holy Spirit will exhibit the fruit of the Spirit ***WITHOUT HAVING TO WORK AT IT!!***

Ga 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live [i.e. began] in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

So read the above reference Eph 5:19-21 again and begin to PRACTICE it the Lord will meet you powerfully in it. He will enable you to do the things you always thought a believer should do WITHOUT TRYING! This will be the fruit of your abiding in the Vine Joh 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.* (Joh 15:5)

AN URGENT WARNING TO TONGUES SEEKERS

That tongues can be and are counterfeited by demon spirits is evidenced by the fact that spiritistic mediums, Muslim dervishes, and Indian fakirs speak in tongues. It must be remembered by those who try to make tongues a badge of spirituality or a status symbol of saints who have attained the height of spiritual experience, that speaking in tongues and their interpretation are not peculiar to the Christian church but are common in ancient pagan religions and in spiritism both ancient and modern.

New Testament Teaching on Tongues, Dr. Merrill Unger,
Kregel Publications; 2003 p163

The proof in this New Testament "pudding" was not the tongues *per se* but what the hearers heard them speaking, *Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.* (Ac 2:11)

RADIO TELEVISION AND THE SUPERSALESMEN EVANGELISTS

What we saw in the later years of the 1900's was a burgeoning of the "Super Salesman Evangelist" A person with a charismatic persona (eye appeal) a gifted speaker (ear appeal) able to stir the emotions mind and will to embracing their particular doctrine of salvation or religion. John S Dickerson wrote a book on the issue of the defunct mechanism of traditional evangelism: *The Great Evangelical Recession: 6 Factors That Will Crash the American Church ... and How to Prepare* by John S. Dickerson. © 2013 by John S. Dickerson. See an excerpt from the book here [Restarting the Church](#) .

I recommend that you do a search on evangelicalism and evangelicals on the net. It is impossible for any of us to visit a cross section of evangelical churches today, however we can get a very good idea if we see what is offering if we trawl You tube for names like Kenneth Hagen, Oral Roberts, Billy Graham, Robert Schuller, Norman Vincent Peale, Jack Van Impe, Kenneth Copeland, etc. etc. It is likely that most of my readers have and know where I am heading just by reading this list.

Sound doctrine and personal commitment in the evangelical churches took a "nose dive" somewhere in the nineteen hundreds until today we find ourselves in the category of the Laodiceans' church of Revelation 3:14 -16 lukewarm religion.

14 ¶ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

This does not mean that in Laodicean Church Age all Christians have lost their heat but that buy and large the church has. Wait a minute! You're looking around too and you say that's not right I know heaps of Churches that really rock!! - and rock is the operative word. People who love to "move in the *bogus* spirit" swooning falling backward speaking incoherently "in the spirit" praying for healings that mostly do not happen or that are supported by lying testimonials - and I acknowledge that *they are not all like that*. The really "hot" churches are like that. And the present day Pentecostal Churches are moving toward ecumenical unity - the world Church. So "hot" in their case does not mean hot for the word of God but "hot" in their going after souls. This does not equate to fruit as the enemy - Lucifer - is "hot" for souls too see 1Pe 5:8.

Rev3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 *As many as I love*, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

The tone of this letter to Laodicea is becoming selective here. There are still those whom Jesus loves and who potentially love Him but it is obviously not all have committed to Him. Nakedness equates to clear and evident ongoing sin harking back to the nakedness in Eden. He is saying your sin is clearly evident to all and sundry repent from it of be chastened! This word is directed to those who have and ear. It is true that we all have ears, it is also that we hear selectively. We "tune out" when we sense that the message might be unwelcome to our flesh-life. The patience of the Lord is truly amazing. In spite of all in the Life of this Church that calls for judgment, Jesus is offering one more chance to join Him on the side of the minority:

20 *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock*: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Indisputably the Amen (Jesus) is standing outside the door of the Laodicean Church knocking. His invitation is to the repentant individual [or group of individuals] to admit him into their life. How do I interpret this as an individual invitation not a corporate one? Look at verse 20 ***Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.***

In this analogy (God's word is big on analogies and figures of speech emphasising the truth not diminishing it,) it indicates that His vow in verse 16 is now carried, or being carried out!

When God is outside the Church the Church is outside God.

Mt 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

So you see the Laodicean Church of the last days, includes Pentecostals and Charismatics, but not exclusively. Please note that Jesus did ***not*** say to those who open the door I will come into thy church but I will come in to **him** and sup with **him**!

We (just five of us) meet in my son's lounge room on the first week-day and there worship pray and sup at the Lord's table, teaching His word and the Lord meets there with us as he promised. (Mt 18:20)

It seems that God is really attentive to the needs of remnants, the "dregs" if you like. There is a kind of spiritual entropy a moral and spiritual disintegration, evident in the histories of the various revivals that can be traced back to Eden in the Word of God.

Chapter 4 Who are God's People?

The Church in both testaments is viewed by God as "My people" first mentioned that way in Ex 3:7 in relation to Israel in Egypt

ISRAEL GOD'S PEOPLE

The history of God's people Israel is testament to the fact that God's grace is not unconditional.

IF:

- 3 If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;
- 4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.
- 5 And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.....

BUT:

- 14 ¶ But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;
- 15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:
- 16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.
- 17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

Israel's acceptance by God was conditional on their accepting His commandments as a nation as His rule of law. Their "constitution" if you will was the Bible He gave them in the Pentateuch the first five books.

History records that Israel failed to keep the law and though Israel failed God - God did not fail Israel He promised them them in: Eze 36:27; And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

see also Jer 31:33; Jer 32:40;Eze 11:19;Eze 36:26;

God kept His promise to them at Pentecost under that New Covenant

THE CHURCH OF THE N.T ALSO ARE GOD'S PEOPLE

At Pentecost (Acts 2) the birth of the New Testament Church there were Jews until God specifically sent Peter to Cornelius. He abrogated the laws regarding clean and unclean animals for food (Acts 10:9-17) and later Paul turned to the Gentiles Ac 18:6 *And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.*

The Gentile Church is viewed by God as a people or His people. See 1Pe 2:10 *Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

Re 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The Bible never teaches that keeping God's/Jesus commandments is a means of grace for salvation but it is the outward expression of our Love for Him *If ye love me, keep my commandments.* (Joh 14:15) What it does teach however is that if we discard His values (commandments) that is to say, turn from loving Him, He will discard us.

What's the difference then if we have to keep on obeying His commandments ISN'T THAT A WORK???

Sure it is! *But it is a result not a cause.* If we are discarded - Paul says a castaway (1Co 9:27) - if God casts us away it is not because we have not done enough "good stuff" (obedience) or because we have done "bad stuff" (sin) He casts away those who have stopped loving Him; those who have turned their backs on His love. That is what Hebrews 6:4-6 is all about. If you are in that position, WAKE UP before it is too late and claim 1John 1:9. *..But, beloved, we are persuaded and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.* (Heb 6:9)

God's people then are not those who never sin but ***those who never give up the struggle*** against their sin-nature, those who keep repenting and coming back to God for His forgiveness and cleansing through their faith in the blood of Jesus. Those who overcome by faith:

1Jo 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and ***this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.***

So the practical application for the overcomer is:

- 1) Be aware of the sin at issue,
 - 2) Confess it to God and yourself - it can be hard to admit and articulate our sin.
 - 3) Repent - turn from it and replace it with a righteous alternative. Learn and sing a victory chorus or recite a victory scripture ***I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*** (Php 4:13)
 - 4) Rest by faith in our Captain who wins the battle for us while we watch!
- Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Individual people who practice this biblical repentant course of action are known to God as His, in any age.

A few examples from the Bible

Abel repented of his sin - evidence his blood sacrifice (Heb 11:4)

David repented of his sin - (Psa 51) God not only forgave him and washed him from his sin but carried on His blessing of the line of David in the eventual coming of the Messiah, the Seed of the woman.

King Saul did not repent and lost God's anointing dying by his own hand estranged from God. *Then said Saul to his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. So Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on*

the sword, and died. (1Ch 10:4,5)

Esau repented TOO LATE! *For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears. (Heb 12:17)*

Judas repented TOO LATE! Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. (Matt 27: 3-5)

Jesus Charges the New Testament Churches

Re 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Chapter 5 Who Are the Elect?

What does the bible say about the "elect" or "election"? This word nominates those who are God's chosen

The first occurrence of the word "elect" prophesies of the coming of Jesus:

Isa 42:1 *Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.* (See vs1-4)

This speaks not of the last judgment but of the spreading of God's own values for godly living established through the cross and implanted on the hearts of His followers Jew and Gentile alike, produce by the Holy Spirit (*Christ in you the hope of glory Col 1:27*). Justice comes when we adopt God's perspective in our daily conversation or manner of life.

5 ¶ Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

6 *I the LORD[Jehovah] have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;*

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

The second Occurrence of the word "elect"

Isa 45:4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and *Israel mine elect*, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

Here God calls Israel His elect in prospect. It was His purpose to evangelize the world by his elect - Israel. God never failed Israel. While they did not complete their mission they did nevertheless impact the world around them.

Jiri Moskala writes

Bosch mentions that "stories of pagans like Ruth and Naaman who accepted the faith of Israel" indicate the missionary nature of the Old Testament. Others recognize individuals such as Abraham, Melchizedek, Jethro, Balaam, and Jonah as agents of God's mission.

Prophets of God were not only speaking to their own people, but they also prophesied about many nations as well; God will judge all (e.g., Jeremiah 46–51; Eze. 25–32; Amos 1–2; Jonah; Obadiah). God was concerned with all nations, and the message of the Old Testament people transcended Israel's borders. God did not provide warnings to people without a purpose; He always wanted to steer them to repentance (see Genesis 6:3; Jonah 3).

[Mission of God's People OT](#)

When Israel left Egypt they took with them many proselytes. Later Rahab testified of the witness of Israel to the nations:

Josh 2:10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

11 And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

Regardless of Israel's many failings God has still a declared purpose for them in His master plan. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans:

Romans 11:2-14

2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; **but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded**

8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:

10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

Remember that according to Paul's inspired teaching in Romans 8 foreknowledge comes first:

29 ¶ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Since God is timeless or outside of time (all of our descriptions fail to comprehend this fully) for our sakes he states this in language that we who are time bound can understand. Foreknowledge of our decisions, our choosing, is the basis for His predestination. Foreknowledge of our response comes first then His election is "back-dated" so to speak. If this were not so His stated unwillingness for any to perish (2Pe 3:9) would be a lie and He cannot lie (Tit 1:2).

THE GOSPELS MATTHEW, MARK AND LUKE SPEAK OF THE ELECT

In every case these Gospel passages are speaking about conditions during the days just prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ what this means is that in Gods estimation the Elect are His chosen ones whom He will take with Him when He returns - His Church, both Jew and Gentile born-again believers,

Mr 13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his **elect** from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

FAITHFUL O.T. SAINTS ARE "ELECT"

Though this name is not specifically used in the Scriptures, nevertheless Old Testament Saints fit the criteria 1)they believed God; 2) they acted on that belief walking in life by faith; 3) They obeyed God's instructions (commandments) 4)They repented and confessed and received forgiveness when they transgressed

Examples of this:-

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Read the complete list in the book of Hebrews 10:38-11:40: Heb 11:40 *God having provided some better thing for us, **that they without us should not be made perfect.***

These all were chosen by God because He knew their heart before they chose Him. Once you secure yourself in Christ Jesus you become His responsibility and He will preserve you eternally as He has preserved His word *For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Ps 119:89*

Those who choose Him are His chosen, His Elect in any age.

Chapter 6 About Remnants

My late wife Betty was a "dab hand" at making great clothes for our children and dresses and clothes for me from remnants. People in a church I once pastored thought we must have had property "back East" because our family was so well dressed. One can do marvelous things with remnants and my Betty was an expert in that domain.

If I can say this with admiration and absolute reverence and respect My Lord Jesus is absolutely amazing when it comes to making something out of remnants. Do you realise that this whole world was populated from remnants. When the Flood came there were only eight people who qualified by faith to be saved millions died without faith in God who tells us in His word

Ge 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

So God judged them and they all died.

THE ELECT BEFORE THE FLOOD

Luke Chapter 3 gives the genealogy of Joseph, husband of Mary mother of Jesus God incarnate and traces the line of descendants back to *Adam the son of God*. This name of Adam is a vital clue to the relationship of Adam and Eve after the fall from grace in Eden. From this we can see that Adam learned the lessons of blood sacrifice and faith in the One who would ultimately fulfill the promise of Genesis 3:15. As a son of God, Adam, was one of the Elect because of his faith taught and transmitted to Abel and Seth and eventually Enos

Gen 4:26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

After Eden and the death of the first martyr Abel, men made contact, worshiped and heard from God by "calling on His name." This a kind of Bible "short hand" for describing those who had a prayer-life with God. They loved Him, paid attention to His instruction obeyed and followed Him. Beginning with Seth.

And God loved them, not because they were inherently righteous, but because they had faith in God's promise of a redeemer and as with Abraham God imputed righteousness to them.

Ge 5:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

By the time Methusela died man's wickedness had reached an all time low.

Seth's descendants except for eight, died under judgment in the flood (see Luke 3). The "eight" were the remnant of the descendants of Seth who at one time worshiped the One True God. There is no merit with God by virtue of having a godly parent, advantageous though that may be.

The children's opportunity to know *about* God was certainly enhanced by their godly heritage. Nevertheless by the time Methuselah died there were Just eight whose blood and morals had not been compromised by fallen angels, they were saved.

Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2Pe 2:5). He preached while he built the Ark warning the people of inevitable judgment while Methusela lived out the remainder of his 969 years. [[Meaning of Methuslah](#) "When he is dead it (the flood) shall be sent"]

GOD SAVED THE REMNANT

So the remnant was saved while the multitude kept on in sin *and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.* (Mt 24:39)

THE ELECT AFTER THE FLOOD

The Bible makes it clear in Genesis 6:4 that the incursion of bad blood from the intermarrying of women with fallen angels continued and men who loved darkness rather than light rallied around a new "star warrior" Nimrod who Gen 10:8 *And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.* In God's face as it were, putting the branch to the nose (see Eze 8:17).

When Nimrod made his ultimate statement of rebellion, the construction of a tower whose object was to reach into heaven, the dwelling place of the fallen angels (stars) he worshiped, God's response was to give men an endowment of "diverse" tongues - without the gift of interpretation of tongues.

The subsequent confusion resulted in the dispersion of the various "tongues" groups to various geographical areas where they as "birds of a feather" so to speak could flock together. World power was **decentralised but genetic and spiritual decay continued.**

Chapter 7 What Do We Do Now?

Now that we are standing outside the recognized Church, with the Lord Jesus. What do we do now? When the early New Testament church began its gatherings together it was urged by the Apostle Paul(?) to the Hebrews:

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The day is even closer than when those words were penned to the Hebrews and although in our specific location in Australia we are not under threat of death at the Roman Circus, nor yet of beheading by Jihad we still need to keep assembling with believers, whoever maintain sound doctrine, those *doctrines of the twelve Apostles*.

STEP 1

Prayer was the starting point of all revivals so find a prayer partner and begin to pray for revival in that group of two or more.

Mt 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

We already know by the Holy spirit that this is not referring to carnal desires such as money, houses, land, a covetous desire for another's spouse or any other sinful desire, but this agreement must be firmly in God's will.

Agree also that jointly the prayer partners will obey the Lord's direction where ever He clearly directs and until that time, agree to keep praying.

STEP 2

Plan to meet with other believers regularly. Choose people the Lord sends or who respond to invitation to join the group after they have read the statement of purpose and belief.

STEP 3

Appoint one or two Elders for each group according to the criteria of scripture.

Tit 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

6 ¶ If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a bishop[overseer or *elder*] must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

1Ti 3:2 A bishop [the superintendent, *elder*, or overseer of a Christian church - Strongs] then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1Ti 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Jas 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

STEP 4

Adopt the [Statement of Faith](#) of Bethania Christian Fellowship at waypoint.org.au

STEP 5

Reach out to the lost by whatever means possible (visitation, tracts, street preaching, Internet, gig sticks and DVDs etc. etc.

STEP 6

Pray together and individually for contacts. Both to be led to them and for them to be led to you.

STEP 7

Don't receive any new people into full membership until they actually show evidence of a changed life and wholehearted agreement with the Statement of Faith. ***Be sure not to coach for behavioral changes***, changes ***must*** be generated from within the individual by the Holy Spirit.

GET STARTED NOW ***BEFORE*** THE LORD RETURNS

Mt 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Remember what we said in Chapter 2 i.e.

These two words "church" and "congregation" are used by us today almost synonymously to describe a Church gathering. Usually it indicates a gathering of more than two or three, but note that this distinction of number does not occur to the Lord

who says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt 18:20)

Don't be deluded into inactivity by the size of your beginnings - look at the mustard seed and fall into the ground, get on your knees and begin to plant the good seed of the Word, actively look and pray for good ground and get some dirt on your hands doing it. Work as if at any moment the Lord will speak behind you and ask "What are you doing?"

WHAT IF I AM A DIRTY VESSEL?

1Cor 6:9 ¶ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, ***but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.***

It is God who decides what is dirty and what is clean. Peter had to learn this lesson graphically:

Ac 10:11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

After Peter adjusted his values to align with those of God he was fit to take the gospel to Cornelius' house the thus to the Gentiles in the Jews eyes the most disgusting and unclean of all humanity. In God's eyes a pearl of great price for which, to purchase it, He bankrupted heaven.

Hosea in the Old testament is an example to us of the depths to which the Lord will call His servants to go to take God's call to repentance to His people

Hos 1:2 ¶ The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.

It is good to realise with great sorrow, the depth from which God saved His servants (us) as long as we do not sin by thinking that God cannot make glory to His name in our redemption, and after polishing and setting in a crown of gold present us, with pride, to hang on the bosom of the Father in heaven. All His work none of ours.

Having redeemed us and imparted to us His Holy Spirit he expects us to serve him as ministers of His Gospel.

Chapter 8 Not the only Pebble on the Beach

You have no doubt heard that saying many times before as have I. When I was a little kid, Mum used to say that to me when I was whinging for something I perceived as a crucial need. She would say, "You're not the only pebble on the beach, now go and play" But though I am not too old to whinge for "stuff" I am too old to be told, "Go and play," but not too old to be told, "Get on with your work!"

I can hear the Lord saying that to me as I write this "You're not the only pebble on the beach, so get on with your work!" You might say that doesn't sound very "spiritual." May be not but it is biblical. One of the greatest Old Testament prophets heard God's still small voice say "What doest thou here Elijah? When Elijah was having a private "pity party" in a cave on Mount Horeb

1Ki 19:13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Oops! The lesson learned from this and what followed.... Don't tell God of the state of affairs you think is so unresolvable because He knows every little detail already and it is certainly not the way we have assessed it to be. Just when I start thinking again that I am the only "pebble on the beach" the Lord shows me more of His faithful people getting on with the work.

His answer to Elijah was, "No you are not the Only pebble on the beach, so get going and delegate!" I paraphrase, but that was certainly His sentiment in what happened next:

1Ki 19:15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria:

16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

17 And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.

18 Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

So it is for us today See:- [Good World News](#) I do not endorse everything I discover on this site, but I can't deny that Bro. Hodges is "getting on with it in a big way." Should we wait until all our doctrine is squeaky clean"? Certainly we should fix something in our doctrine we know is contrary to the word of God but remember what Paul said to the "nit pickers" of his day:

Php 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

So let's get on with preaching the Gospel *while it is day the night cometh, when no man can work.* - Jesus' words. (Joh 9:4)

I am about to jump into God's fiery chariot so to speak, but if you are reading this pick up the mantle and smite the waters and see what God can do!

While you give me breath Lord I will do my best to practice what I preach - Amen

About The Author



Michael L Trinham

Michael has spent over thirty years in various Church Ministries across Australia.

Graduated from The Alliance College of Theology Canberra, A.C.T. with a Licentiate of Theology Degree and Scholar of Theology Degree He was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the Christian & Missionary Alliance and spent sixteen years in ministry as a credentialed Alliance Pastor.

After completing post-graduate studies with Trinity Theological Seminary (U.S.)

he earned the Master of Divinity Degree in 1988

In latter years he spent some time in various Pentecostal Churches taking several minor positions in teaching roles there without real unanimity with some of their doctrines.

Observing the slide away from truth by most of the Denominational Churches, Fundamental, Charismatic, and Pentecostal alike, he believed God was opening the way for him to investigate the causes and characteristics of this phenomenon.

From that investigation under the Lord's leading this small book was born

WHAT IS CHURCH?

Mt 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.