

“UNTIL THIS WORD...”

By Keith Greer

Paul was preaching in Jerusalem. The Jews were busy stirring up the people against him. After making some false charges against Paul, they began to beat him seeking to kill him. (Acts 21:26-32.) The commander and soldiers came to see what the commotion was about. When no firm answers were forthcoming Paul was placed in chains and taken back to the barracks. (Acts 21:33- 37.)

Paul asked the commander if he could address the crowd. Given permission, the discourse begins in Acts 22. Paul told them of his past life and his conversion to Christ, then how he had been warned about coming to Jerusalem. Finally, he told how the Lord sent him to preach to the Gentiles. “And they listened to him until this word ...” {Acts 22:22}

What happened? Did Paul lie to them? Of course not. They "heard" something they could not agree with. So they cut off his sermon! Sadly, what happened to Paul still happens today. People will discuss religion matters with you, listen very carefully, until you say "the word". What is this "word"? It varies depending on the discussion. Let me give you two examples.

There Is Only ONE Savior. When we begin to discuss that salvation is in Christ alone, some say they have heard enough! What saith the scriptures?

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins. " {John 8:24}

"Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. " {John 14:6}

Who died for your sins? Who gave you redemption? Who reconciled you back to God? "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8}

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" {Ephesians 1:7}

"For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. " {Romans 5: 10,11} Now, where does that leave those who believe salvation is found in Mohammed, Joseph Smith, the Pope or some other man? Pretty clear isn't it?

There is only ONE church. Get out! We have heard enough! "Join the church of your choice"- this is the cry of mankind. It would be better to say, "Join the church of God's choice"! There are

so many churches, how do we know which one is right? All claim to be that church. Here are some suggestions:

Where did the church begin? According to Isaiah 2:2,3, it would start in Jerusalem. Acts 2, confirms this to be true. Daniel 2:44, said it would be in the days of the Roman rule. What time period did our Lord live? Please read Matthew 21: 17-21.

How many did Jesus promise to build? Read Matthew 16:18. Who is the head of the church? Please read Ephesians 1:22,23. How many "bodies" does our Lord have? Read Ephesians 4:4. Who paid the price for the Lord's church? Please read Acts 20:28.

Sadly, the majority of the religious world will look at you like you've lost your mind to make such assertions. Narrow-minded, prejudiced, and we just hate all other churches. Yes, I've heard it all my life, but the plain truth is all these false assertions fail to deal with what the book teaches. Why not just exam what God says and let that be the final word on this issue – or any other spiritual issue. That WORD will stand when the world is on fire! ***