

FOUNDATION OF FAITH: THE CHURCH

By Keith Greer

We have arrived at the last foundation we want to discuss in this series of articles-**The Church**. While it is true that Christ came to "do His Father's will" part of His will was to set the stage for His kingdom. Jesus made this promise to His disciples.

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." {Matthew 16: 18} How many did He promise to build? One--His Church.

"To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, "{Ephesians 3: 10,11}

In this short article allow me to show the fundamental difference between His church and the churches of men.

When did the church begin? Some say in the days of John the Baptist. If so, he did not know it. Read John 1:19-23; 3:30. Many today teach that the kingdom has yet to be established. If this be so, please explain the following passages: Mark 9:1; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9.

All fall short of the truth taught in the Scriptures concerning the "kingdom of heaven.". Please consider the following fact...

"Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem'. "{Isaiah 2:3} This prophet (said "in Jerusalem") Christ agreed.

"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. " {Luke 24:47}

"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. "{Daniel 2:44} This prophet said in the days of the Roman Empire.

The prophet Joel, in Joel 2:28-32, said in the last days His spirit would be poured out on all flesh. Peter agreed with him. Please read Acts 2:14-21.

Here are some facts concerning the Day of Pentecost:

Time period was the Roman Empire. Read Luke 2:1. Where were the disciples at this time? In Jerusalem. Read Acts 1:8-12. What time period was it? In the "last days" according to Peter. Read Acts 2:17. What happened to the disciples on the Day of Pentecost? The Holy Spirit came upon them. Please read Acts 2:1-4. This fulfilled the promise made by Christ:

"And He said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power'. "{Mark 9:1}

What was the response from the preaching of Peter? "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do? {Acts 2:37} This fulfilled the promise made to the disciples by Christ. Please read John 16:7-11.

Men were added to His church, Acts 2:47. This is the church that was determined before the world began, was promised to be built by Christ and was purchased with His own blood, Acts 20:28. He is the head of it, Ephesians 1:22,23. According to Paul's letter to the Ephesians there is only ONE body, Ephesians 4:4-6. Are you a member of it? ***