

THE CHURCH OF WHOSE CHOICE? (2)

By Keith Greer

Every coin has two sides. Now let us examine what we need to look for if we are seeking a church of the **LORD'S CHOICE**, instead of one that pleases us.

A church that offers all spiritual blessings. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." {Ephesians 1:3} Every spiritual blessing—grace, mercy, and forgiveness of sins—for which sinners seek, can be found only in Christ. No matter how attractive a church appears to be, true spiritual blessings can be found only in His church—not the churches established by men.

A church that offers true salvation. "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." {2 Timothy 2:10} Sinners all need the salvation offered by the Lord. It can only be found in the place where God put it—in His Son. This means it's necessary to find a church where the Lord's presence resides.

A church that offers true forgiveness. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." {Ephesians 1:7} Only in Christ—in the church that bears His name—can one obtain real forgiveness of his past sins and release from the burden of guilt brought on by those sins!

A church that offers real redemption. "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." {Colossians 1:14} Redemption means buying back. He bought us back from sin's bondage. Christ ended that bondage when He died on the cross, shedding His precious blood. One contacts that blood when he is baptized into Christ and becomes part of His church. Does the church to which you belong teach you how to contact Christ's saving blood?

A church that offers reconciliation. "And that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity." {Ephesians 2:16} Which church teaches the message of true reconciliation between God and sinners? Sin separates us from God, and unless that sin is removed, we cannot enter into true fellowship with God. Christ's church—not a church established by a man—is the only church that preaches the true gospel of reconciliation.

A church made up of new creatures. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." {2 Corinthians 5:17} Which church preaches the means of making one a new creature—putting off the "old man of sin" and "putting on the new man?" {Colossians 3:1-10} Only the Lord's church preaches the true formula for accomplishing this spiritual transformation.

Blest in death. "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." {Revelation 14:13} Which church's doctrine assures us that we can be at rest in death,

knowing that our faithful works do follow us? Only His church.

Take a close look at any teaching devised in men's hearts and in opposition to the church of GOD'S CHOICE. The Bible clearly teaches that the Lord only built ONE and that He is the head of that body. He died to purchase only ONE church. Yes, we live in a country where we are given the freedom to choose our religion freely. Dear reader, allow me to suggest one should give sober consideration in their choice. His choice is the only one that truly matters in the end. Does your choice agree with His choice? {Isaiah 55:11. ***