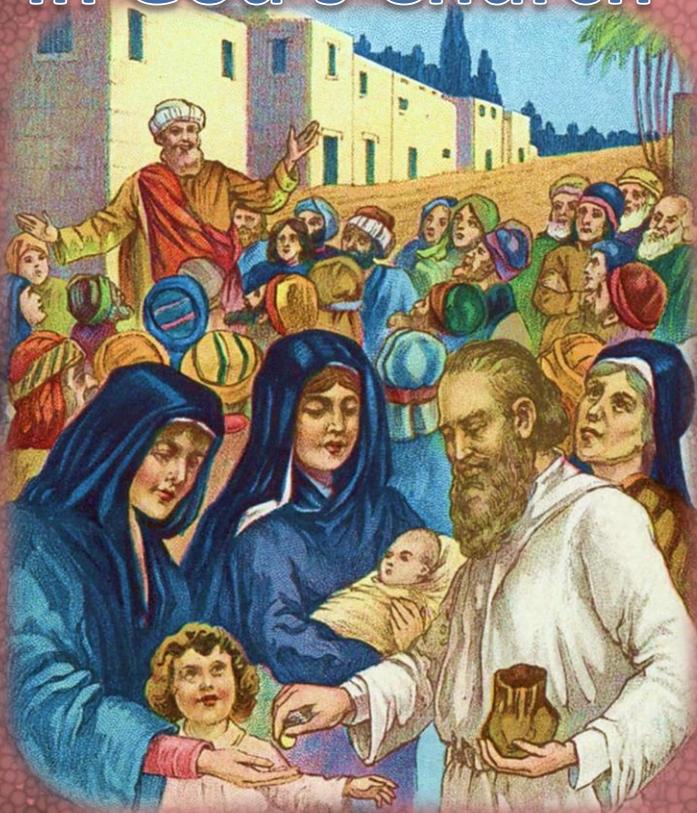


Gospel Order

in God's Church



Bible Study Pathways

Lesson 26

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A Story to Ponder... "Why do I need to attend church?" asked one man of his minister. "I can stay home and read my Bible and be just as good a Christian as my friends who attend church."

The pastor merely smiled, then walked over to the fire, took one red-hot coal, and laid it off by itself. Soon the red coal lost its glow and gradually became gray and cold.

"You understand now?" asked the minister.

"Yes, I understand." And the man smiled.



Who must be the center of the church in order to make it successful?



Psalm 127:1 says "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."



"Picture a large circle, from the edge of which are many lines all running toward the center. The nearer these lines approach the center, the nearer they are to one another. Thus it is in the Christian life. The closer we come to Christ, the nearer we shall be to one another. God is glorified as His people unite in harmonious action." (2 MCP pg. 501, 502)



Who is head of the true church? _____



Eph. 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." (Col. 1:13, 14, 18; Eph. 1:20, 22)



Who is the Rock that the church is founded on? _____



Matt. 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (Greek: Petros—a piece of rock), and upon this rock (Greek: Petra—a mass of rock) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (1 Cor. 10:4; 1 Cor. 3:11, 2 Sam. 22:32; Psalm 18:2)



What does the Bible liken the members of the church to? _____



Rom 12:5 "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." (1 Cor. 12:12, 1 Cor. 12:27)



Where are the church books written? _____



Heb. 12:23 "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect," (John 10:28, 29; Luke 10:20)



Where did churches in the Bible-times meet? _____



Matt. 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Rom. 16:5, 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15, Acts 7:38; Lev. 19:30, 2 Samuel 7:13, 1 Samuel 1:9; Luke 4:16; John 18:20; Acts 18:4)



For what purposes is the church to exist? _____



Mark 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." **Matt.5:14** "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." (Matt. 28:19, 2 Timothy 4:2) **Hebrews 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." (1 Corinthians 14:26; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-14)



Does the Biblical model of the church allow for organization? _____



1 Corinthians 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." **1 Cor. 14:40** "Let all things be done decently and in order." (Exodus 18:13-23; Numbers 2:17; Numbers 3:25, 29, 31, 36, 38; Acts 15:6; Acts 15:25)



Name some different positions in God's church. _____



1 Cor. 12:28 "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

1Cor. 12:4-6 "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Chronicles 9:33; 2 Chronicles 5:12; Philippians 1:1)



What are the characteristics an elder/bishop is supposed to have?



James 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:" (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

? What characteristics should leaders in the church avoid?



Matt. 23:8 “But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.” (1 Peter 5:1-3)



Read and list the Biblical requirements/ description given for deacons? _____



1 Timothy 3:10 “And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.” 1 Timothy 3:8-13



Will you ever find a church where no wolves/evil people enter? _____



Acts 20:29 “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.” **Matt. 13:25-30**; **John 6:70,71** ; **3 John 1:9,10**



What are the characteristics of God’s true last day church?



Rev. 12:17 “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Dragon =Satan Rev. 12:9, Woman = Church Jer. 6:2, Isaiah 51:16; For the Testimony of Jesus see Rev. 19:10, John 5:39) **Rev. 14:12** “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

CONCLUSION

God’s church will be organized for the purposed of spreading the gospel to the world. Christ is the head of the Church. All members will be equal in the sight of God, yet there will be different positions and talents of the members. There will also be faithful leaders chosen as elders/bishops and deacons.

The last day church will be composed of a remnant who:

- keep all 10 commandments of God,
- hold the scriptures in high regard,
- have the spirit of prophecy
- and the faith of Jesus that endures perseveringly despite the wrath of the dragon.