

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Origin of the Church

In years gone by our brethren debated denominational preachers on prominent doctrinal difference between them and churches of Christ. There were at least four major propositions that we discussed with the sects at this time. These propositions were representative of the major differences between the truth and denominational error.

These propositions discussed were on the subjects of: (1) the essentiality of baptism in Gospel obedience; (2) the possibility of apostasy; (3) the direct operation of the Holy Spirit; and (4) the beginning of the church. These topics were debated in literally thousands of public discussions wherein truth was taught and error routed.

It is the fourth of these propositions that we wish to deal with in this particular article; the beginning of the Lord's church. In his 1938 oral debate with Baptist Ben Bogard, Brother N.B. Hardeman negated the denominational contention that the church was an existing reality during the personal ministry of Christ.

In a 1949 written debate, Brother W. Curtis Porter engaged Sunday Myers in a debate on the same subject. Myers affirmed that the church of Christ is a denomination which originated about the year 1801 from the personal interpretations of men like Barton Stone and Alexander Campbell. Evidently it never dawned on Myers that Campbell never came to America until 1809.

One might wonder why this subject was deemed important enough as to be one of the primary propositions discussed with our denominational friends of days gone by. But a denial of any biblical principle is reason enough to contend for the truth that people might not harbor misconceptions concerning God's scheme of things.

Some denominational people want to place the establishment of the church back in the days of John so they can claim Scriptural authority to wear the name "Baptist." Others have no objective other than to attach a badge of sectarianism to the churches of Christ by denying our Biblical origins. One argued that the Lord's church actually had its beginning back in the days of Abraham. He thought this was sufficient Biblical authority for infant baptism in the church today. Brother Joe S. Warlick, who conducted 399 debates with denominational preachers, stated: "All the real scholars in the Baptist church who have ever written on the subject say that the church was established on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ" (*Some Baptist Blunders*, p. 8) He further elaborates, "Strange that when men write as scholars they do not show the amount of prejudice as when they write as theologians. I cannot see why it is that the Baptists, all of them, do not accept the truth on this question. It seems to me that they would lose nothing by it, and the truth is so much easier maintained than is the false position they generally occupy on the question. They think the church of Christ is a New Testament institution; and just why they do not come to the right position on the time of its establishment and agree with the really sensible men among them, I have never been able to understand" (p.10).

I had a conversation with a woman who claimed we cannot know when the church had its beginning. The one thing she was certain about is that the church did not have its beginning on the first Pentecost following Christ's resurrection. Her argument was that the Bible nowhere says explicitly that the New Testament church began in Acts 2. Her mistake was supposing the Bible must state something explicitly in order for it to be taught. The fact is, that taught implicitly within the Bible is just as binding as that taught explicitly. Man is obligated to know what God's Word explicitly states and by use of reason that God has blessed him with, learn what God has implied by those explicit statements. This is the only way we can know what the Bible teaches as to when the church had its beginning. I pointed out that at some point in time the church had to have its beginning because Jesus said "**upon this rock I will, build my church**" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus said "**I will build,**" indicating that He would build it sometime in the future. I then pointed out that the church was now in existence because inspiration teaches that Christ is "the head of the body, the church" (Colossians 1:18). I then questioned her. If the church was not yet in

existence at Matthew 16:8, but it was in existence by Colossians 1:18, when did it originate? What episode in the Biblical record indicates to the Bible reader the exact time when the church began?

Jesus and Peter speak of the “beginning” (Luke 24:47; Acts 11:15). Jesus anticipated the events recorded in Acts 2. Peter looks backwards to the episode of Acts 2. It is significant that Acts 2:47 mentions for the first time the church as an existing institution: **“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved,”**

— Stephen Wiggins

Prayer Requests

Lindsey Wells has requested prayers for her brother, **Brad Bundick**, who was put on a heart monitor two weeks ago. He is also dealing with COPD, but is not on oxygen yet. Brad was able to go back to work but is still in need of prayers.

John Wood went to Lubbock on Monday, May 7th, to get his second MS treatment. It was a long procedure but everything went well. Continue to keep John in your prayers.

Letha Hooper had a light stroke two weeks ago. She is able to be at home to recuperate. Keep her in your prayers.

Concerns Update

Rosalinda Benavides was admitted into Odessa Regional Hospital last week for observation and monitoring. Her babies are due the end of this month. Please, no visitors. Continue to keep Rosalinda in your prayers.

Prayer List

Tom Bauer; Rosalinda Benavides; Elsie Bradford; Bill Butler; Blas Campos; David Castor; Beth Clay; Sherry Cox; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; Verona Dykes; Dana Erwin; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; David Guynn; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Shirley Harvey; Glenda Hillis; Letha Hooper; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Eliseo Lopez; Russ Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Tanya Nichols; Kathy Nunley; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Elvia Ruckman; Janelle Shirley; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Laura Vasquez; Jurlean Warren; Doris Weakland; Jimmy Weaver; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; Wanda Wheeler; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley; John Wood; Jack Wright.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Jennie Fuls; Roberta Hamil; Janis Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Abraham's first wife, Sarah, we know well. She was the mother of Isaac, her only son, but after the marriage of Isaac to Rebekah, Abraham took unto himself another wife. Is it true or false that her name was the same as Isaac's wife?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

Christ pronounced woes against Chorazin and Bethsaida because they repented not.

(Matthew 11:20-21)

Events

Watch **“In Search of the Lord's Way”** every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the “Speaking the Truth in Love” program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Office News

The “New Mexico Children’s Home” will be back in Odessa June 5th, 2018. They are requesting **55 Gallon Trash Bags**. Monetary donations also accepted.

We will have a “Praise & Singing Service” on the fifth Wednesday of this month.

Our “Summer Quarter” begins June 3rd. We are in need of teachers. If you are interested in teaching for next quarter, please see Larry May or one of the Coordinators.

Crib Shower

Since Rosalinda Benavides will not be able to attend a baby shower once the babies are born so the church is hosting a “Crib Shower” for her. Rosalinda has requested diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes. The triplets’ birthdate is expected the end of this month. There is a crib set up in the east foyer.

Is It Just A Coincidence?

Before ascending into Heaven, Jesus told His apostles that the person who believes in the gospel and is baptized will find salvation (Mark 16:16) - is it just a coincidence that baptism is placed before salvation?

After preaching Jesus as the crucified, buried and risen Savior, Peter told a crowd waiting anxiously to repent of their sins and submit to baptism under the authority of Jesus to find the mercy from God they desperately wanted (Acts 2:37-41) - is it just a coincidence that baptism is placed before salvation?

During a trip to Damascus, Paul (Saul) witnessed with his own scale covered eyes the validity of the gospel and was told after three days of praying and fasting to get up and get under the water to wash away his sins (Acts 22:6-16) - is it just a coincidence that baptism is placed before salvation?

How many times do you have to read about something before you start believing that it is more than a coincidence and actually the will of God?

—E. Adkins
Smithville, T

May 13th, 2018	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Craig Wesson	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Jeff Wesson	Cody Wesson
Second Prayer	Bill Tolbert	John Wood
Closing Prayer	George Warren	Richard Siler
Lord's Supper		
West...	Josh Wells	George Warren
	Cody Wesson	Communion
	Dex Dennard	(In Library)
East...	Jeff Wesson	
	Tommy Garcia	
	Bill Ryan	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon*: Bill Ryan 272-5507 *Pulpit*: Jacob Carson 940-3775 *Table*: George Warren 557-2171 *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties*: Chris Butler 362-7486 *Collections*: Chris Butler 362-7486

Sunday AM

"Mother's Day"

(1 Samuel 1:1-7)

Sunday PM

"Medicine of God"

(Joshua 1:1-7)

Our Records

Bible Class... 75

Morning Worship...104

Evening Worship...66

Wednesday...70

Contribution...\$4,860.00