

Special Large Print Edition

For Those With Vision Difficulties

Crossword Puzzles On

**New Testament
Church**

QUESTIONS

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Did John The Baptist Establish A Church?

Lesson One

If this question were asked of many religious persons, they would probably think he did. But remember, the only true answer must come from the Bible. The whole world may say, "Yes, John established a church," but if this does not agree with the Bible, then it is false.

The word of God teaches plainly that John did not establish a church. Please study the following biblical facts that emphasize this:

(1) Jesus taught: "...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Since Jesus built it, John could not have done so.

(2) When Jesus promised to build His church, John the Baptist was already dead. Two chapters before Jesus promised to build His church, it is recorded that Herod had John put to death: "So he sent and had John beheaded in prison" (Matthew 14:10). Thus, after John was beheaded, Jesus spoke of the future and said, "...I will build My church,..." (Matthew 16:18).

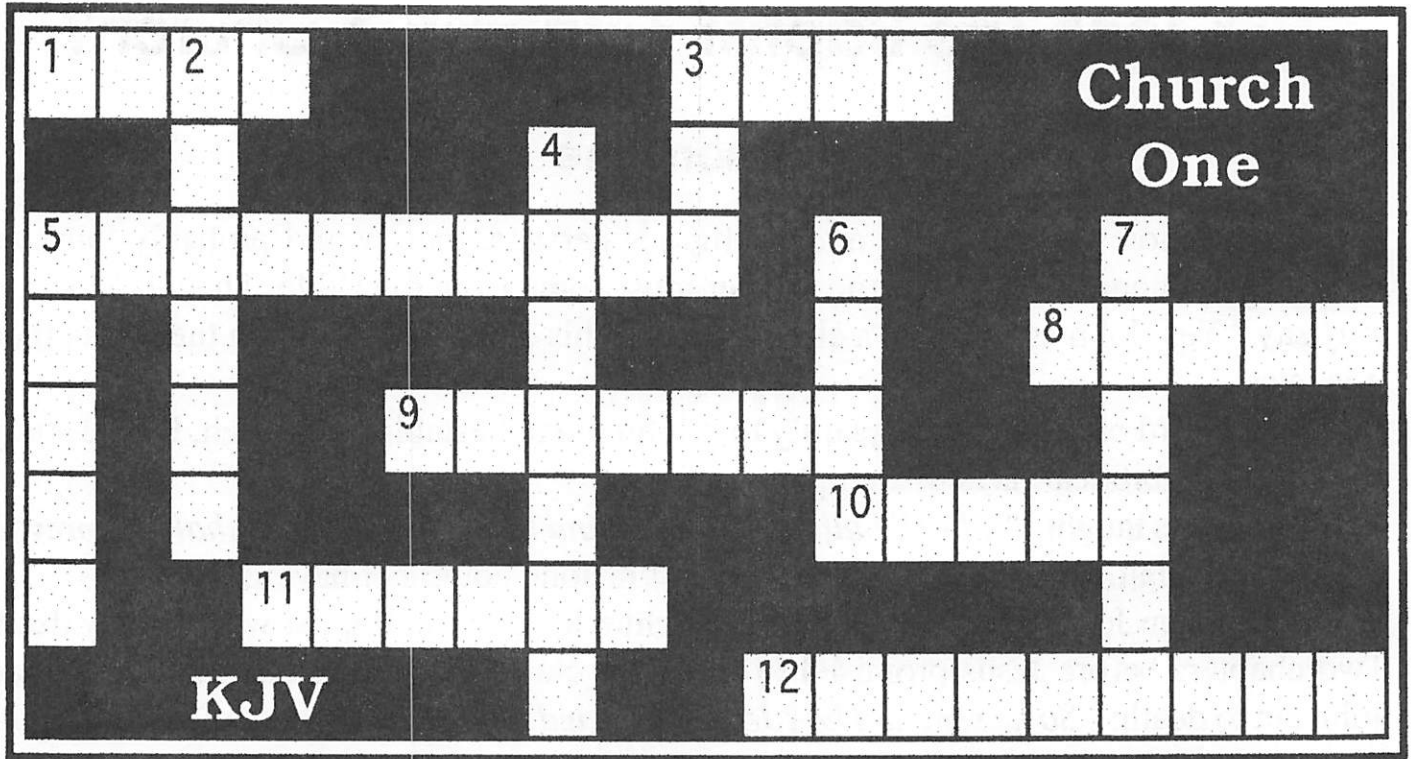
(3) John was a great man sent from God on an important mission, but it was NOT to build a church! The Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, prophesied that this man would be: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God'" (Isaiah 40:3). According to Luke, John was to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (Luke 1:17). When one studies his ministry, this is exactly what John did—no more and no less.

(4) John the Baptist was never a member of Christ's church or kingdom, because he died before Christ established it. Jesus recognized this fact when He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matthew 11:11). Why is the least in the church or kingdom greater than John? Because he was never a member—he died before Christ established His church or kingdom.

(5) As John called the Jews of that day to repentance and baptism, his message was "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2), and NOT already established. This man is referred to as John the Baptist simply because, as he prepared the way for Jesus, he baptized people.

The original Greek would be more correctly translated: "John the Immerser."

Therefore, when one consults the Bible, it is found that John the Baptist did not establish a church. It was only Jesus who built His church, and this cannot be shared with anyone else.



ACROSS

- 1 A wise man used this for the foundation of his house (Mt. 7:24)
- 3 That which Jesus would do for His people (Mt. 1:21)
- 5 *"For other ----- can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ"* (1 Cor. 3:11)
- 8 The ones in the kingdom who are greater than John the Baptist (Mt. 11:11)
- 9 That which was to be made straight in the desert (Isa. 40:3)
- 10 The object that "Cephas" means when interpreted (John 2 1:42)

- 11 A place where John the Baptist was beheaded (Mt. 14:10)
- 12 The gospel is *"the power of God unto -----"* (Rom.1:16).

DOWN

- 2 Something that Jesus said He would build (Mt. 16:18)
- 3 Before obedience, the Christians at Rome were *"servants of ---"* (Rom. 6:17)
- 4 Something of heaven (Mt. 16:19)
- 5 It is impossible to please God without this (Heb. 11:6)
- 6 Objects used for opening doors (Mt. 16:19)
- 7 A word that requires a change of heart (Mt. 3:2).

Upon What Foundation Did Jesus Build His Church?

Lesson Two

In the building industry, no one will deny the importance of a true, solid foundation. In fact, it can be truthfully said that no structure is any stronger than its foundation. Why is this? Because the most beautiful building would weaken and fall without the right foundation. This fact is even more serious when applied to God's spiritual foundation. Therefore, the true church of the Bible is certainly built upon the right foundation.

When Jesus promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18), He promised to build it upon a rock. Peter was called Cephas, which means a stone (John 1:42), but this was not the rock upon which Jesus built His church. The Greek word for Peter is "*petros*" (πέτρος), a detached stone, but the rock upon which Jesus said He would build His church is "*petra*" (πέτρα), which means a mass of rock.

In Matthew 16:16, Peter had just confessed that Jesus is "*the Christ, the Son of the living God,*" and this is the rock (foundation) of the church. It was built upon Jesus as the Christ the Son of the living God! If this fact were removed, everything else would fall. Therefore, Jesus is the only foundation—the only chief corner stone upon which His church was built.

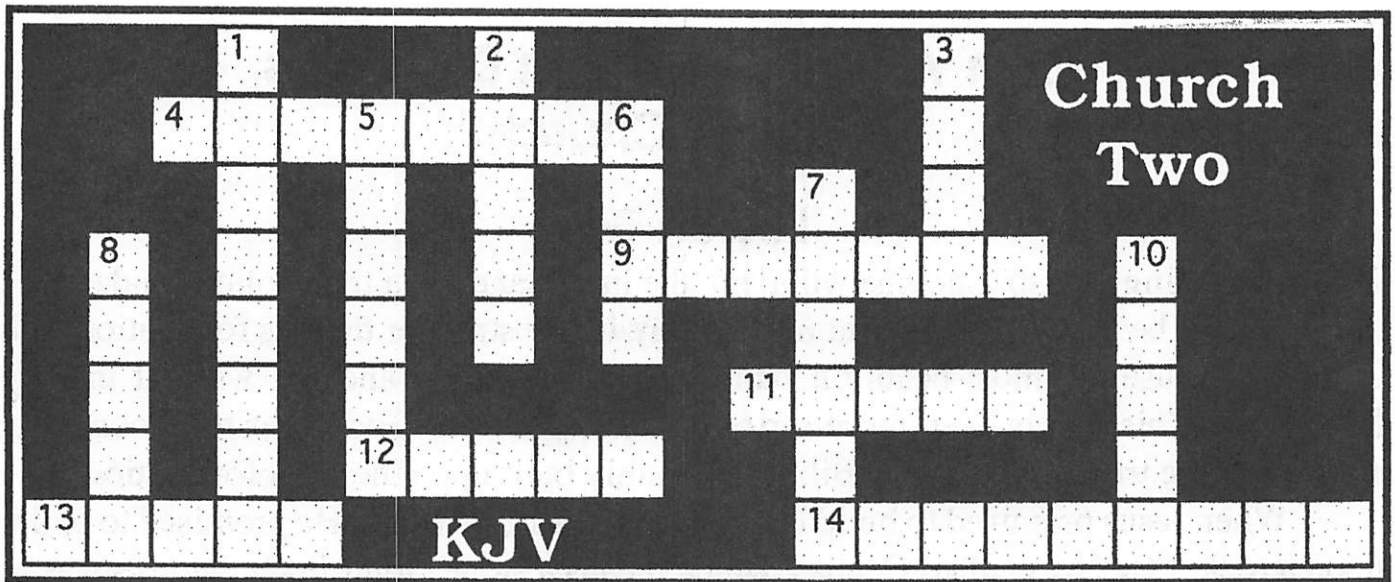
The apostle Paul settled the question forever when he wrote, while being guided by the Holy Spirit: "*For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ*" (1 Corinthians 3:11). Paul is not saying that one cannot lay another foundation, but he is saying that one cannot lay another foundation and be pleasing to God. Another foundation cannot be laid that will stand!

The foolish man described by Jesus in Matthew 7:24-27, built his house upon the sand, but his house fell. Yes, we can build upon other foundations, but they will not hold, because Jesus the Christ is the only true foundation, the only chief cornerstone.

The Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, foretold this foundation when he wrote: "*Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation;'*" (Isaiah 28:16).

When Peter applied this prophecy to Jesus, he wrote: "*This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone'*" (Acts 4:11).

Thus, Christ's church cannot be founded upon a man—all human beings are excluded. The church that withstands eternity must be built upon Christ the Son of God.



ACROSS

- 4** The kind of stone that Isaiah foretold Jesus would be (Isa. 28:16)
- 9** That which was foretold that would flow into the Lord's house (Isa. 2:2)
- 11** The purchase price that Jesus paid for His church (Acts 20:28)
- 12** "*the ----- of God, which is the church of the living God*" (1 Tim. 3:15)
- 13** The man to whom Jesus promised, "*I will build My church*" (Mt. 16:18)
- 14** Regarding sin, this was to be preached (along with repentance) among all nations (Lk. 24:47).

DOWN

- 1** "*For where your ----- is, there will your heart be also*" (Lk. 12:34)
- 2** Something Jesus promised that would come with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)
- 3** The place where God promised to lay a foundation stone (Isa. 28:16)
- 5** The saved were added to this daily (Acts 2:47)
- 6** The kind of foundation that makes one foolish (Mt. 7:26)
- 7** "*the church of the living God, the ----- and ground of the truth*" (1 Tim. 3:15)
- 8** Something, compared to Jesus, that the builders set aside (Acts 4:11)
- 10** "*in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord -----*" (Col. 3:17).

At What Place Was Christ's Church Established?

Lesson Three

There have been many answers given to this question, but the Bible gives only one—it was established at Jerusalem. To find this complete answer, it is necessary to refer to the Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment. The great prophet Isaiah spoke of the Lord's house being established on the top of the mountains, and foretold that all nations would flow to it. He concluded with these words: "*Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it*" (Isaiah 2:2).

What is the Lord's house mentioned by Isaiah? Paul gives the answer to Timothy: "*...I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth*" (1 Timothy 3:15).

Therefore, when Jesus came and began preparation to build His church, the place had already been designated. Since Jesus was the Son of God, He would want His church to be established in Jerusalem where the prophet had foretold. This fact is proven by what Jesus said: "*Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high*" (Luke 24:46-49).

Just before Jesus ascended back to the Father, He promised His apostles: "*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth*" (Acts 1:8). Jesus kept all of His promises, because after His ascension, the apostles went to Jerusalem to wait for the promised power of the Holy Spirit to come. In Acts chapter 2, this great power came, and the Lord's church had its beginning in Jerusalem.

Therefore, a church that was established at any other place in the world other than Jerusalem, cannot be Christ's church. In spite of all the departures and apostasies down through the centuries, and in spite of the fact that man has founded

many human churches across the land, we must go back to Jerusalem, AD. 33, to find the right place where Christ's church began.

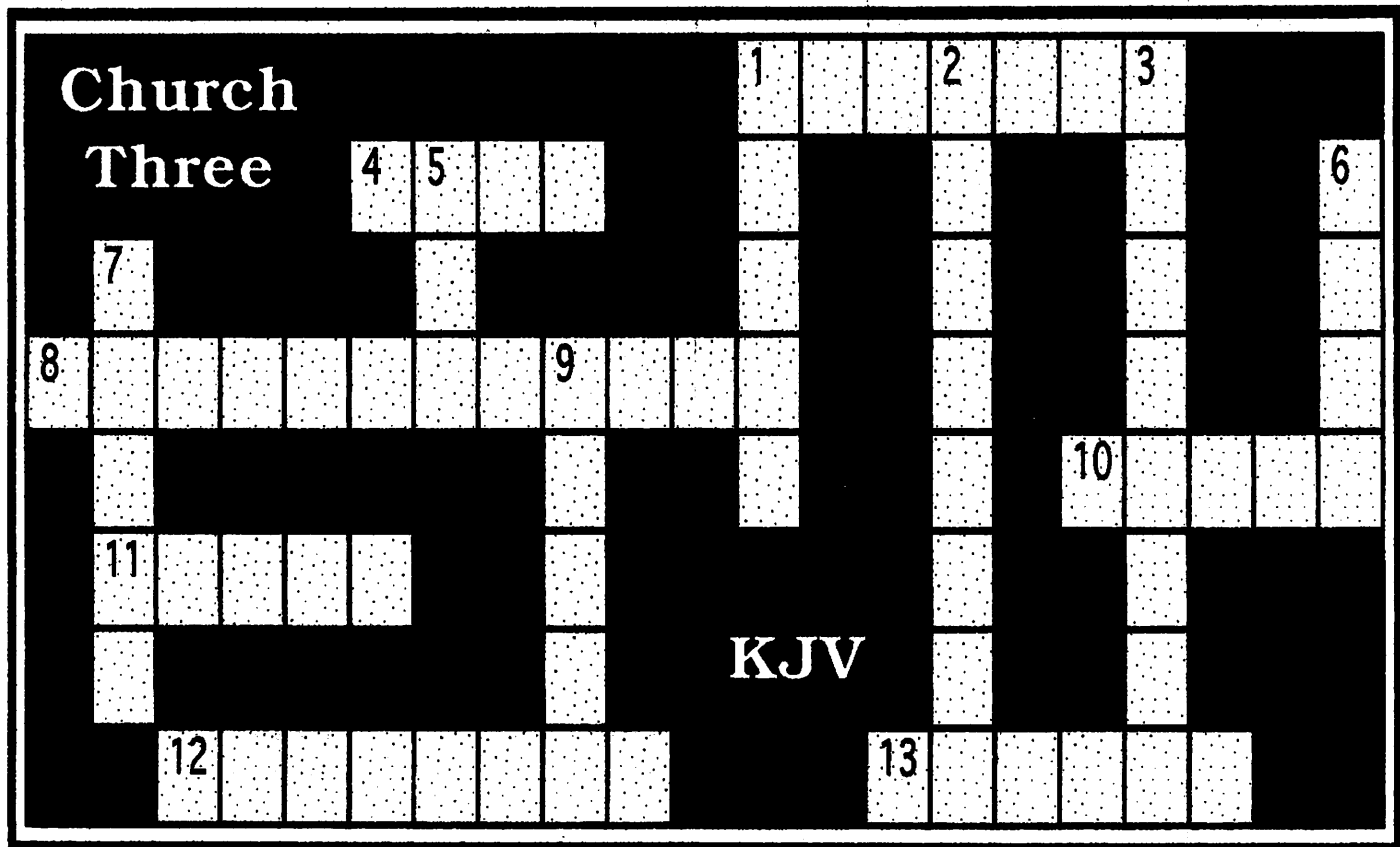
To be right with God, we must observe the commandments that went forth from Jerusalem. When we do this, we can know for sure that we are not wrong with Jesus, who purchased His church with His blood (Acts 20:28). However, to seek another place for the beginning of His church is to follow men and not God.

Jesus gave this warning: "*Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted*" (Matthew 15:13). keys to the kingdom, but when He ascended to His Father, it still had not been established.

Then in our study, we come to Acts chapter 2, where the apostles were waiting in Jerusalem to receive power. It was here that the power came down on the Jewish feast day of Pentecost. The sound "*as of a mighty rushing wind*" brought a great multitude of people together. On this wonderful occasion, Peter used the keys of the kingdom and bound and loosed God's will.

In this Acts 2 chapter, for the first time, the church is spoken of as a reality rather than something yet to come. When Peter completed his sermon about the Christ and God's purpose for Him, we read: "*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them*" (Acts 2:41). Then the chapter closes with these words: "*praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved*" (Acts 2:47).

Therefore, the church that Jesus had promised was established on this Jewish Feast of Passover, AD. 33, as recorded in Acts, chapter 2!



ACROSS

- 1 This happened to the hearts of some who heard the word of God preached (Acts 2:37)
- 4 Another word for Christ's church (Eph. 1:22,23)
- 8 That which declared Jesus to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4)
- 10 A sin that elders in the church must not have (1 Tim. 3:6)
- 11 The Holy Spirit was promised to come, and He is called "*the Spirit of -----*" (John 16:13)
- 12 The way that the Galatian Christians had put on Christ (Gal. 3:27)
- 13 The new name that God gave Jacob (Gen. 32:28).

DOWN

- 1 Something that the Father will root up (Mt. 15:13)
- 2 "*The ----- of Christ greet you*" (Rom. 16:16)
- 3 Something of Christ in which one must abide (2 John 1:9)
- 5 "*There is --- body,*" (Eph. 4:4)
- 6 Something wonderful bestowed upon sons of God (1 John 3:1)
- 7 That which some would not taste until they saw the kingdom come with power (Mk. 9:1)
- 9 The number of thousands who gladly received the word and were baptized (Acts 2:41).

When Was Christ's Church Established?

Lesson Four

Thus far in this series we have studied several facts about Christ's church from the word of God: We observed that Christ is the builder of His church, that the only true foundation is Christ the Son of God, and His church was founded in Jerusalem.

Now please consider the question, "When was Christ's church established?" Some have answered this question by saying, in the days of Abraham, during the time of Moses, or during the time of John the Baptist. Some have even said that He has not yet established it—that it will be established in the future. All of this confusion is not necessary, because the Bible plainly gives the answer.

There is a fact that we need to remember as we seek the time that Christ's church was established. The words church and kingdom are often used interchangeably. For example, in Matthew 16:18 where Jesus said, "*I will build My church,*" He immediately said in the following verse to Peter, "*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven*" (Matthew 16:19).

Thus, when He said, "*I will build My church,*" He was also saying, "I will build My kingdom." When He said, "*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,*" He was saying, "I will give you the keys of the church."

When John the Baptist began his ministry, he cried out to his audiences: "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*" (Matthew 3:1,2). When something is at hand, it means that it is near.

We know that John did not mean that the church would be established during his own ministry, because after John was beheaded, Jesus promised, "*I will (future tense) build My church!*"

Furthermore, Jesus promised that His church or kingdom would come in the lifetime of some of His followers: "*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).

When Jesus sent forth seventy men to preach, He instructed them to say, "*The kingdom of God has come near to you*" (Luke 10:9). Surely we can see that when

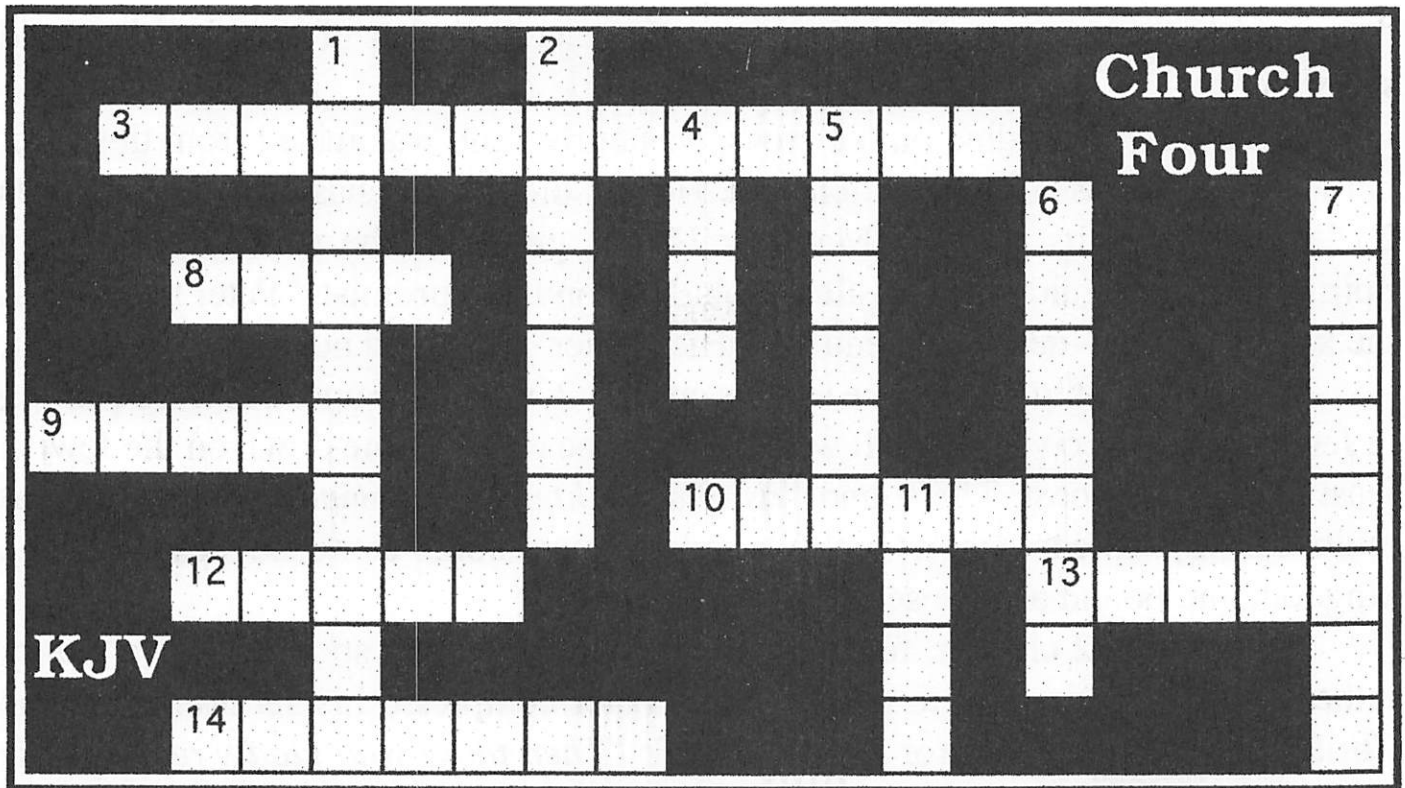
these words "*near to you*" were spoken, the establishment of the church would shortly come!

After this, Jesus died on the cross, was buried and was raised from the dead, but His church was still not established. He had died to purchase the church (Acts 20:28), promised its coming (Matthew 16:18), promised the power of the Holy Spirit to come to guide the apostles (Acts 1:8), and had promised Peter the keys to the kingdom, but when He ascended to His Father, it still had not been established.

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ACROSS

- 3 *"Servants of -----"*
(Rom. 6:18)
- 8 The wrong way to worship
God (Mt. 15:9)
- 9 The place where some were
affected when Peter preached,
(Acts 2:37)
- 10 The one Paul specified who
must be the husband of one
wife (1 Tim. 3:2)
- 12 Something one should not do
(Eph. 2:9)
- 13 That which Jesus received in
heaven and in earth (Mt.
28:18)
- 14 The one Paul declared to be
the head of the wife (Eph.
5:23).

DOWN

- 1 A name given to disciples in
Antioch (Acts 11:26)
- 2 *"unto the church of God
which is at -----"* (1 Cor. 1:2)
- 4 A word describing the hour
when the jailer was baptized
(Acts 16:33)
- 5 That which was to be ordained
in every city (Titus 1:5)
- 6 A man who was almost per-
suaded to be a Christian (Acts
26:28)
- 7 Those who belong to God
(Gal. 3:26)
- 11 Christ is: *"---- over all things
to the church"* (Eph. 1:22,23).

What Did Peter Bind And Loose When Christ's Church Was Established?

Lesson Five

Jesus had promised Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and had promised him that whatever he bound and loosed on earth, the same would be done in heaven. What did Peter bind and loose when Christ's church was established?

The historical day of Pentecost must have begun as usual, but things really began to happen on "*the third hour of the day*" (9:00 am). At this time, there was a great sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind, and there appeared what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated. All the apostles were given the power to speak in other tongues (languages) as the Holy Spirit filled them.

Since this was a special feast day in Jerusalem for all Jews, there were devout men from every nation under heaven (vs. 5). These Jews represented many languages on the earth, and yet, when they came together and heard Peter and the others, they all understood (vss. 7,8).

How was this possible? The answer, The Holy Spirit guided Peter and the other apostles, to perform a miracle of languages, as Peter bound and loosed God's will to the world.

Peter's sermon is recorded, and we find that he began his sermon by proving that all these miraculous happenings had been foretold by the prophet Joel, and they were now being fulfilled. Then he turned to Jesus of Nazareth, and reviewed for them His life, ministry, and cruel death. Peter further shocked them by saying that God raised Him up (vs. 24). Then Peter showed them that David had foretold this resurrection, and that David was not referring to himself, but to Jesus Christ (vss. 25-35).

Then Jesus brought home their guilt: "*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ*" (Acts 2:36).

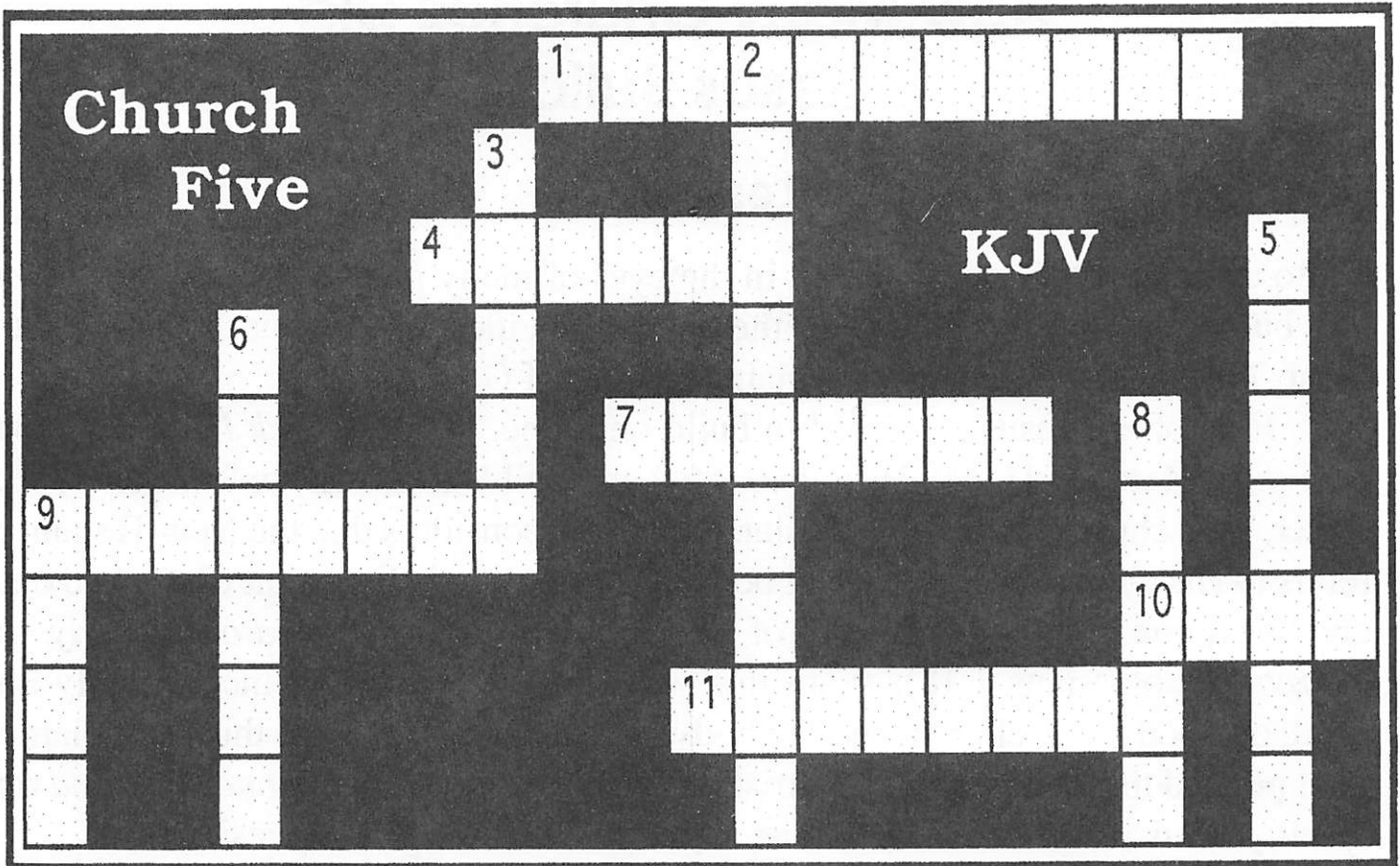
How did some in this audience respond? "*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'*" (vs. 37). Peter answers their question: "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38).

Why did Peter bind repentance and baptism, but not mention faith? The an-

swer: they already had faith in Jesus from Peter's preaching. How can we know this? Because they had already asked Peter and the other apostles, "*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*" (vs. 37). Why would they be asked to believe when they already believed?

What was the result of this first sermon preached on the birthday of the church? "*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them*" (vs. 41). What a great beginning!

Did you know that today when we, like these Jews, have faith and ask, "What must we do to be saved," the same answer is bound: "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; . . .*" (Acts 2:38). This is what Peter bound, and it is still God's way for lost sinners to reach the saving blood of Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26,27).



ACROSS

- 1 Something great brought against the church (Acts 8:1)
- 4 That which Paul and others preached (Gal. 1:8)
- 7 The way faith comes (Rom. 10:17)
- 9 *“And when the chief ----- shall appear”* (1 Pet. 5:4)
- 10 A word describing a useless kind of worship (Mk. 7:7)
- 11 Something belonging to Christ that is essential to have God (2 John 1:9).

DOWN

- 2 It is said of Jesus: *“Neither is there ----- in any other”* (Acts 4:12)
- 3 God gave His Son for this (John 3:16)
- 5 Something to do to God when suffering as a Christian (1 Pet. 4:16)
- 6 Peter commanded this before he commanded to be baptized (Acts 2:38)
- 8 The jailer asked, *“Sirs, what must I do to be -----?”* (Acts 16:30).
- 9 *“Is any merry? Let him ---- psalms”* (Jas. 5:13).

How Many Churches Did Jesus Build?

Lesson Six

To answer, "Only one," seems, in the eyes of many people, to be very narrow, but the word of God declares the one church idea throughout the New Testament. To deny this is to deny the plain teaching of God's word.

First of all, Jesus promised to build only one. "*on this rock I will build My church,*" (Matthew 16:18). He did not say I will build "a church" or "churches," but rather, "My church" which is singular. When one considers that the New Testament refers to His church as His spiritual body, it is logical to believe that Christ had only one body, one church. Paul wrote of Christ, "*And He is the head of the body, the church,*" (Colossians 1:18). From this verse, it is evident that there is only one head, one body, one church, and the body is the church! To make this truth plainer, Paul penned these words to the Christians at Ephesus: "*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*" (Ephesians 4:4).

Please learn that there are two ways in which the word church is used in the New Testament:

(1) In the universal sense. This describes the one church or kingdom that Jesus purchased with His own blood. "*...shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood*" (Acts 20:28). When Jesus promised: "*I will build My Church,*" He used the word church in the universal sense.

(2) In the congregational sense. The one universal church was planted throughout the world of the first century. Thus, in each city such as Rome, Corinth, and many other cities, a congregation of the one church was established. When the New Testament refers to the church in Corinth, it is referring to one local church meeting in the city of Corinth. In every place or city where there was a church, it was a local church.

Therefore, when Paul wrote to the Christians who were members of the local church in Rome, he referred to all local churches of the one universal church and said: "*Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you*" (Romans 16:16).

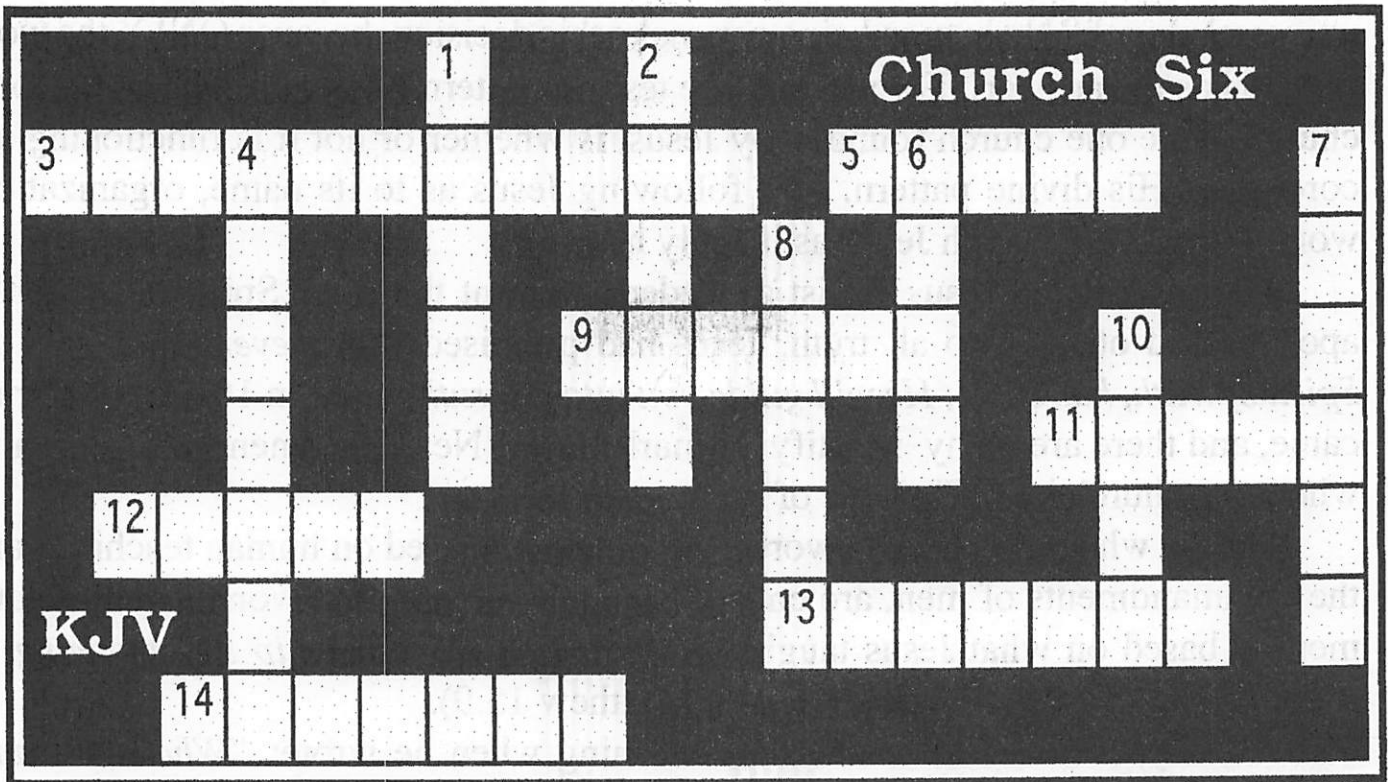
The following question might be asked, "How does one know whether or not a local church or congregation is one of the local churches belonging to the one

universal church? No human being can make this decision, because **ONLY** the word of God has the answer! For you see, the test that determines whether or not a local church is the one church founded by Jesus, is whether or not it is functioning according to His divine pattern. Is it following Jesus as to its name, organization, worship, and creed, with Jesus as its only head?

After the Lord Jesus Christ ascended, He sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles and others into all truth. Jesus had promised: "*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;*" (John 16:13). This truth came, and there are many identifying marks in the New Testament that determine whether a church is of Christ or of men.

Those who establish and worship in churches based on human teachings and the commandments of men, are engaged in a vain and empty worship. This statement is based on what Jesus taught: "*And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men*" (Matthew 15:9).

Finally, John sounded a serious warning when he wrote: "*Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son*" (2 John 1:9).



ACROSS

- 3 *"All Scripture is given by ----- of God"* (2 Tim. 3:16)
- 5 The way a man is justified rather than by *"faith only"* (Jas. 2:24)
- 9 That which it is impossible to do (to God) without faith (Heb. 11:6)
- 11 Something used to make a confession unto salvation (Rom. 10:10)
- 12 That which Paul joins with faith to be saved (Eph. 2:8)
- 13 The way faith comes (Rom. 10:17)
- 14 That which a heathen jailer was first told to do to be saved (Acts 16:31).

DOWN

- 1 A woman who was justified by her works (Jas. 2:25)
- 2 Something that God loved enough to give His Son (John 3:16)
- 4 *"No prophecy of the Scripture is of any ----- interpretation"* (2 Pet. 1:20)
- 6 That which Jesus requires to be done for eternal salvation (Heb. 5:9)
- 7 Something that Jesus became (Heb. 5:9)
- 8 This works by love (Gal. 5:6)
- 10 *"Except a man be ---- of water and of the Spirit"* (John 3:5).

What Names Identify Christ's Church?

Lesson Seven

There are those who say that there is no importance in a name, but to believe and teach this is to deny the plain teaching of the word of God. Why is this? Because both the Old and New Testaments plainly reveal that God has placed great emphasis on names. For example, He even named such individuals as Adam, Eve, Abraham, Sarah, and changed Jacob's name to Israel. *"And He said, 'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel;'"* (Genesis 32:28).

Not only did God choose special names, but the names chosen had specific meanings. In fact, God even sent an angel to reveal His Son's name before He was born. The angel of the Lord said to Joseph: *"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21).

However, you might be shocked in the fact that the Lord did not give His church a proper name, but rather, He gave it many descriptive names. These names either refer to ownership, or describe something important about His church. Let us consider briefly some of these names:

In Acts 8:1, it is simply called **"the church."** The word "church" comes from the Greek word "ekklesia" which means a group of people called out. Therefore, the "called out" are those who have been separated from the evil world by an obedient relationship with Christ. Paul uses the Christians at Rome as an example: *"But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness"* (Romans 6:17,18).

In 1 Corinthians 1:2, it is called the **"church of God"** which simply means the church that belongs to God. Since Jesus is one of the persons of the Godhead, and since He and His Father are one, it is scripturally correct to refer to Christ's church as the church of God.

In Ephesians 4:12, it is called **"the body of Christ."** Since the church is His spiritual body of which He is the head, this shows ownership. This one church, His body, fully belongs to Christ.

In Romans 16:16, it is designated as the **"churches of Christ."** In this context, Paul is referring to the many local congregations that belong to Christ. Since He built His church (Matthew 16:18), purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28), and is its only head (Colossians 1:18), shouldn't it belong to Him?

To identify it as belonging to someone else other than God and Christ, is not only unscriptural, but also unfair. For example, after Henry Ford spent all those years of hard labor inventing his car, how do you suppose he would have felt if it had been given someone else's name?

Just think for a moment of all the churches of the land that are wearing names that cannot be found in the New Testament—names that do not honor God or His Son! Can these names be pleasing to God?

Puzzle 7
Here

What Were Members Of Christ's Church Called?

Lesson Eight

We should not be surprised to learn that the members of the church of Christ of the first century were called by names that had specific meanings. They were descriptive names that harmonized with the word of God. Therefore, we can be assured that these same names are right and safe to wear today. Please consider some of these New Testament names:

DISCIPLES

In Acts 20:7, one can read where the disciples came together on the first day of the week to break bread. In this reference, they are called “disciples.” This word means a learner accompanied by endeavor—thus, a learner and follower. Since those who learn of Jesus, obey and are added to His church (Acts 2:47), it is acceptable to call them disciples.

CHRISTIANS

These disciples of Christ were also called Christians. As Luke recorded the history of the church in the book of Acts, he wrote: “*And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch*” (Acts 11:26).

When Paul preached Jesus to King Agrippa, this man responded by saying: “*You almost persuade me to become a Christian*” (Acts 26:28). This was exactly what Paul wanted to do—he was trying to persuade him and all others to become Christians!

To wear the name Christian often brought persecution, but Peter wrote that such should not bring shame: “*Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter*” (1 Peter 4:16).

Therefore, it is wondered, how could anyone who claims to love Christ and claims that they are saved by Him, prefer to be called something other than just a Christian!

The Bible declares: “*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him*” (Colossians 3:17). As Peter discussed the importance of the name of Christ in Acts chapter 4, he concluded: “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven*
19 *given among men by which we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).

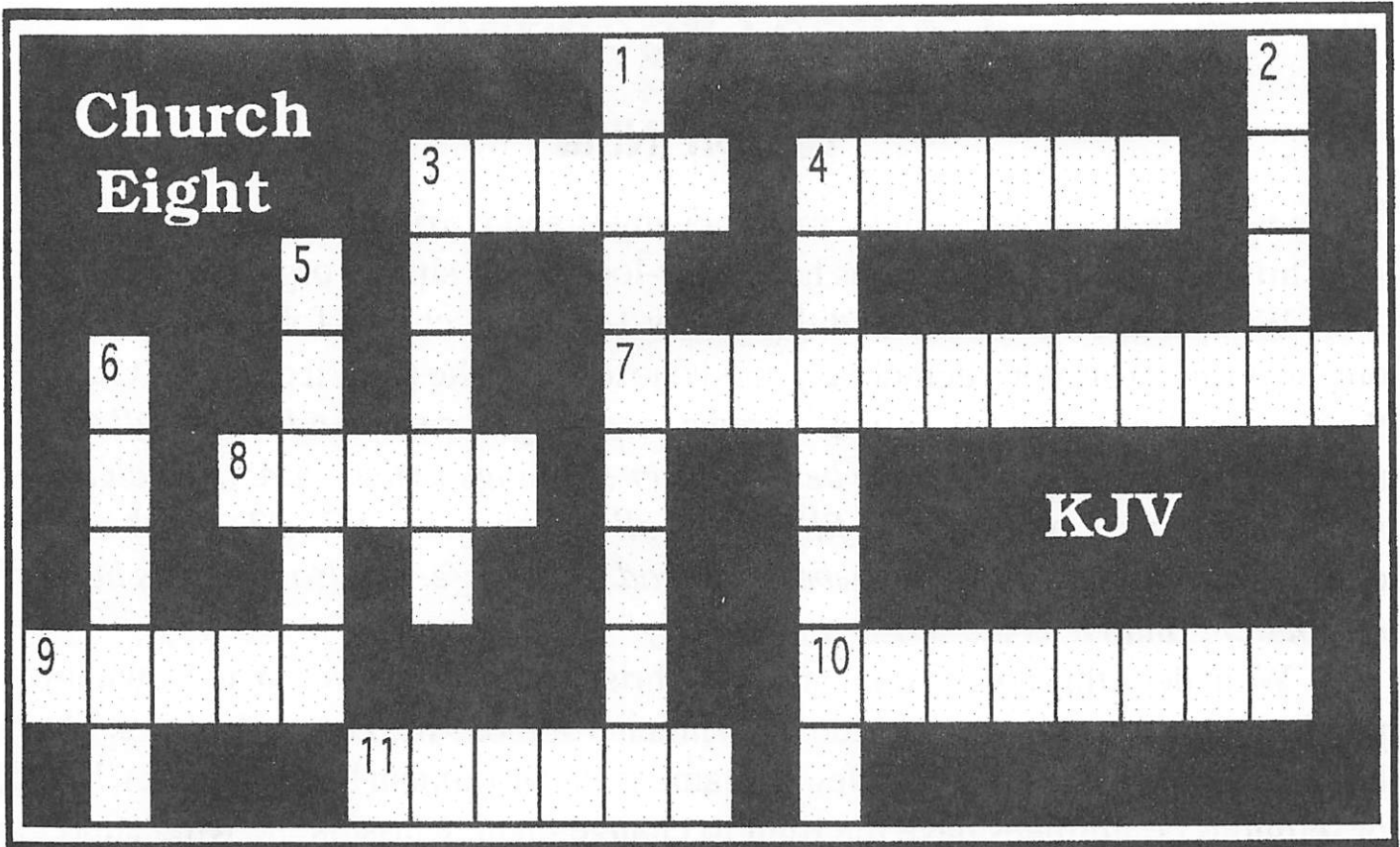
SAINTS

The members of Christ's church were also called "saints." Down through the years this word has been changed to apply to a select few, but this is not true in the word of God. As Paul began his letter to the Christians at Corinth, he wrote: "*To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,*" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Since all true Christians are set apart and sanctified by the gospel of Christ, they are to be called saints.

CHILDREN OF GOD, AND A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Finally, members of Christ's church were also called, "*children of God*" (Romans 8:16; 1 John 3:1), and "*a royal priesthood,*" (1 Peter 2:9).

What about you? Are you wearing a scriptural name?



ACROSS

- 3 Description of the way to destruction (Mt. 7:13)
- 4 A word describing those who prayed for Peter when in prison (Acts 12:5)
- 7 “with ----- let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil. 4:6)
- 8 One capable of tempting (1 Cor. 7:5)
- 9 A word associated with thanksgiving (Col. 4:2)
- 10 That which Jesus did with His own blood (Heb. 13:12)
- 11 “Singing and making ----- in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19).

DOWN

- 1 Jesus connected this act with believing to be saved (Mk. 16:16)
- 2 Something that was sung (Mt. 26:30)
- 3 “for wide is the gate, and ----- is the way, that leadeth to destruction” (Mt. 7:13)
- 4 Something to be done with mouth (Rom. 10:9)
- 5 Those “baptized into Christ were baptized into His -----” (Rom. 6:3)
- 6 Jesus blessed this as part of a memorial (Mt. 26:26).

Church Organized?

Lesson Nine

The centuries have brought so many changes and corruption in organization of Christ's church until millions have over-looked it's simple organization.

What kind of government did the New Testament church follow? Perhaps to our surprise, it was not a democracy. God chose rather the church of which Christ is the head to be a monarchy. Paul declared concerning Christ: *"And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all"* (Ephesians 1:22,23). In the same epistle, Paul wrote: *"For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body"* (Ephesians 5:23).

What does this mean? It means that Christ has all the power to make the laws, put them into force, and to provide punishment for those who break the laws. These laws have been recorded in the New Testament, and no human being, counsel, board, or religious committees have the right to change them. Christ is the King supreme of His church or kingdom. *"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth' "* (Matthew 28:18).

It is also a fact that each local church was overseen by men who were called elders, bishops, or pastors, and their qualifications were given by Paul. (See 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9). However, these men of any given congregation could shepherd the flock, only as Jesus, the Chief Shepherd directed them (1 Peter 5:4).

For example, they could not change the commandments to repent, to be baptized, to eat and drink the Lord's Supper, and how to worship. These instructions had already been given by the Holy Spirit, and are found in the word of God. Therefore, they must always be obeyed.

In fact, the Bible warns against changing God's truth. *"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed"* (Galatians 1:8).

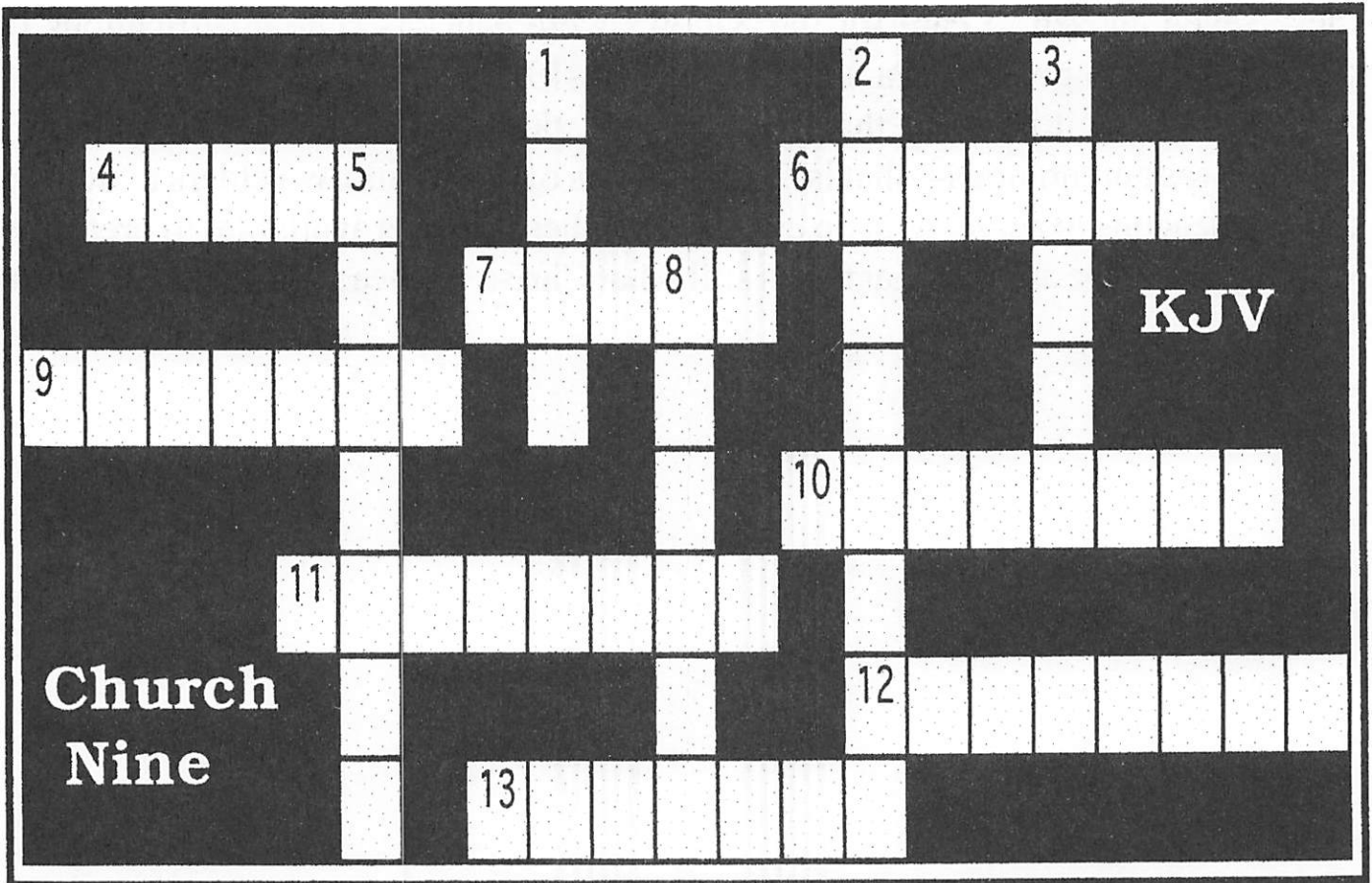
John also warned: *"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son"* (2 John 1:9).

In addition to elders (or bishops or pastors), the New Testament church also had deacons serving the many physical and spiritual needs found in each local church.

Although the men chosen in Acts 6 are not called deacons, many believe that

these seven chosen to care for the widows were deacons. The qualifications for deacons are also given by Paul (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

Therefore, it is a fact that each congregation of Christ's church in the first century was autonomous—that is, it stood on its own with its own elders to oversee, its own deacons to serve, with an evangelist (when one was available) to preach the word. You can be assured that this is still what Christ, the head of His church, wants today.



ACROSS

- 4 *“psalms and hymns and spiritual -----”* (Eph. 5:19)
- 6 The kind of life after baptism (Rom. 6:4)
- 7 A place specified for making melody (Eph. 5:19)
- 9 *“Pray without -----”* (1 Thes. 5:17)
- 10 Something to be unto death (Rev. 2:10)
- 11 The time that Paul’s sermon ended at Troas (Acts 20:7)
- 12 A form of instruction while singing with others (Col. 3:16)

- 13 One of four things in which early Christians continued (Acts 2:42).

DOWN

- 1 *“Upon the first day of the ---- let every one of you lay by him in store”* (1 Cor. 16:2)
- 2 A word associated with righteousness (Rom. 6:18)
- 3 Something of the Lord to be shown (1 Cor. 11:26)
- 5 *“----- and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”* (Eph. 5:19)
- 8 The way Paul wanted the word of Christ to dwell (Col. 3:16).

What Creed Did The New Testament Church Follow?

Lesson Ten

The word creed simply means, “I believe,” and when a creed book is used, such book contains what one believes. There are two types of creed books today:

(1) Creed books written by men.

These books contain beliefs that have been passed down from generation to generation—the beliefs of generations before. These beliefs often come from a leader of the past who was highly respected. Thus, his teachings were recorded, and down through the years additions and subtractions have been made. The majority of religions today have their own human creed books that they follow, and copies of most of these can be found in some public libraries.

(2) The creed book is the Bible.

You can be assured, that the teaching and instructions found in this Book, the Bible, is that which was followed by the New Testament church.

As Christ’s church began to spread in the first century, such men as Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, sent letters of instruction as to what Christians were to believe, and these letters became a part of the New Testament. In this sense, the early Christians followed the New Testament as their creed.

Now the question might be asked, do we have a choice as to the kind of creed we follow and still be pleasing to God? Or, will God accept both types of creeds? To answer these questions, we need to refer to the Bible.

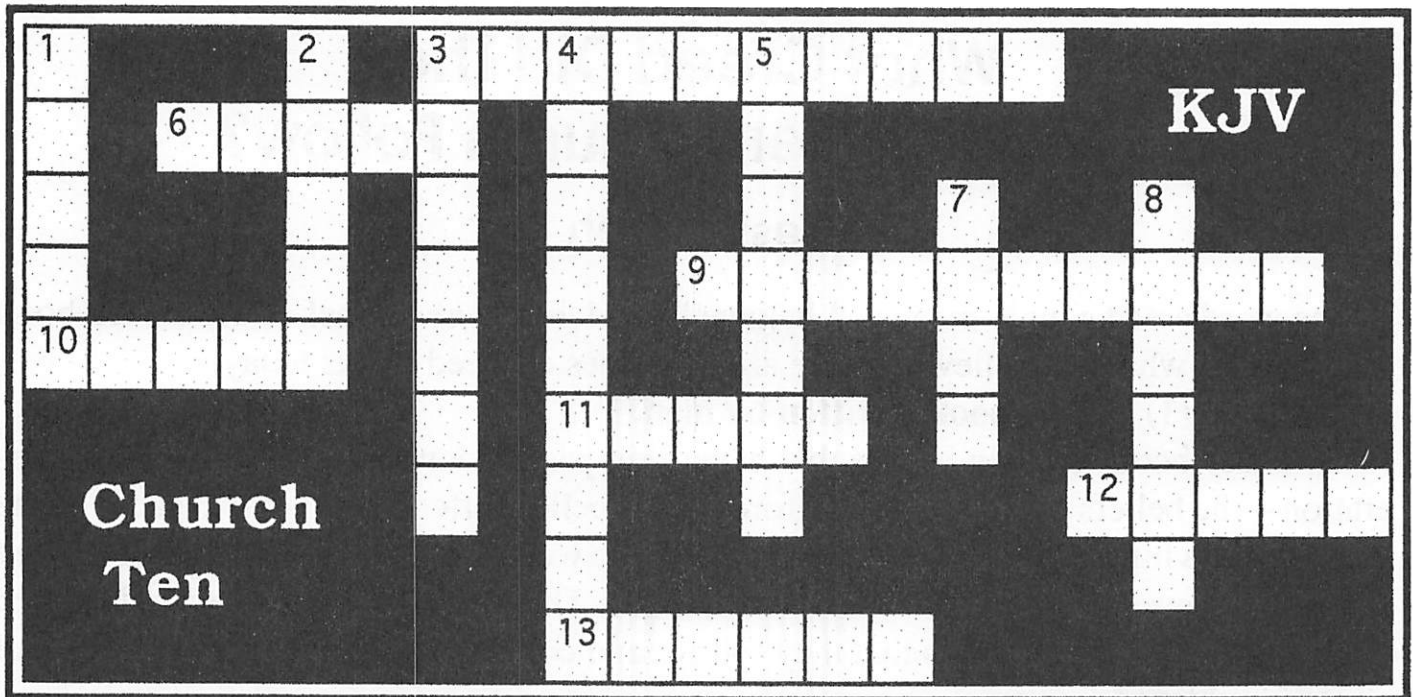
Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees: *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men”* (Matthew 15:8-9).

The apostle John gives this warning: *“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son”* (2 John 1:9).

Perhaps Paul’s warning to the Galatian churches is the most frightening: *“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed”* (Galatians 1:8).

Therefore, what we believe and follow must be based on the word of God. All creed books written by man will not stand the test of eternity. The early church of the New Testament had no human creed books, and we must not have any today.

For example, if a creed book is less than the Bible, it is not enough. If it is more than the Bible, it is too much. If it is the same as the Bible, why have it—why not just use the Bible!



ACROSS

- 3** Something available from Christ through His blood (Eph. 1:7)
- 6** Something lifted up while praying to God (Acts 4:24)
- 9** Those who eat and drink the Lord's Supper unworthily, are "*not ----- the Lord's body*" (1 Cor. 11:29)
- 10** The place where one must purpose before giving to God (2 Cor. 9:7)
- 11** Paul mentions those who gave "*beyond their -----*" (2 Cor. 8:3)
- 12** "*And the Lord added to the church ----- such as should be saved*" (Acts 2:47)
- 13** Paul prayed always for these (Eph. 6:18).

DOWN

- 1** One of two ways that God must be worshiped (John 4:24)
- 2** "*And upon the ----- day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread*" (Acts 20:7)
- 3** Paul commanded this to be done by Christians (Phil. 4:4)
- 4** These came together to break bread (Acts 20:7)
- 5** Something that Paul and Silas sang in prison (Acts 16:25)
- 7** Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Jesus, on "*The first day of the ----*" (John 20:1)
- 8** The church is called, "*the ----- and ground of the truth*" (1 Tim. 3:15).

Did The New Testament Church Follow The Inspired Word?

Lesson Eleven

Before this question can be answered intelligently, we must learn what is meant by the word “inspired.” In the New Testament, this word is translated from two Greek words which mean, “God-breathed,” “God-spirited,” or “being filled with the breath of God.”

Thus, the Bible is not just a work of man, it is not just a work of God, but rather God and man working together. God breathed into certain men and they were moved either to speak or to write. Peter shows how men were inspired from God when he wrote: *“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”* (2 Peter 1:20-21).

The apostle Paul recognized all Scriptures as being inspired of God when he wrote: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Have you noticed in the Bible how often such phrases as: *“Thus says the Lord,” “God Spoke,” “the Lord has said,”* and related expressions are used? In the Old Testament alone, such phrases are used **2,500** times! In fact, the prophets used such expressions **1,300** times.

As Jesus taught in His ministry, He often quoted from the Old Testament and accepted it as being from God. In fact, He taught that He was fulfilling these Scriptures (Matthew 5:17). He also alluded to various stories of the Old Testament and recognized them as being true.

For example, there are those who reject the book of Jonah, and refer to it as just a “big fish story,” but not so with Jesus. He said, *“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”* (Matthew 12:40).

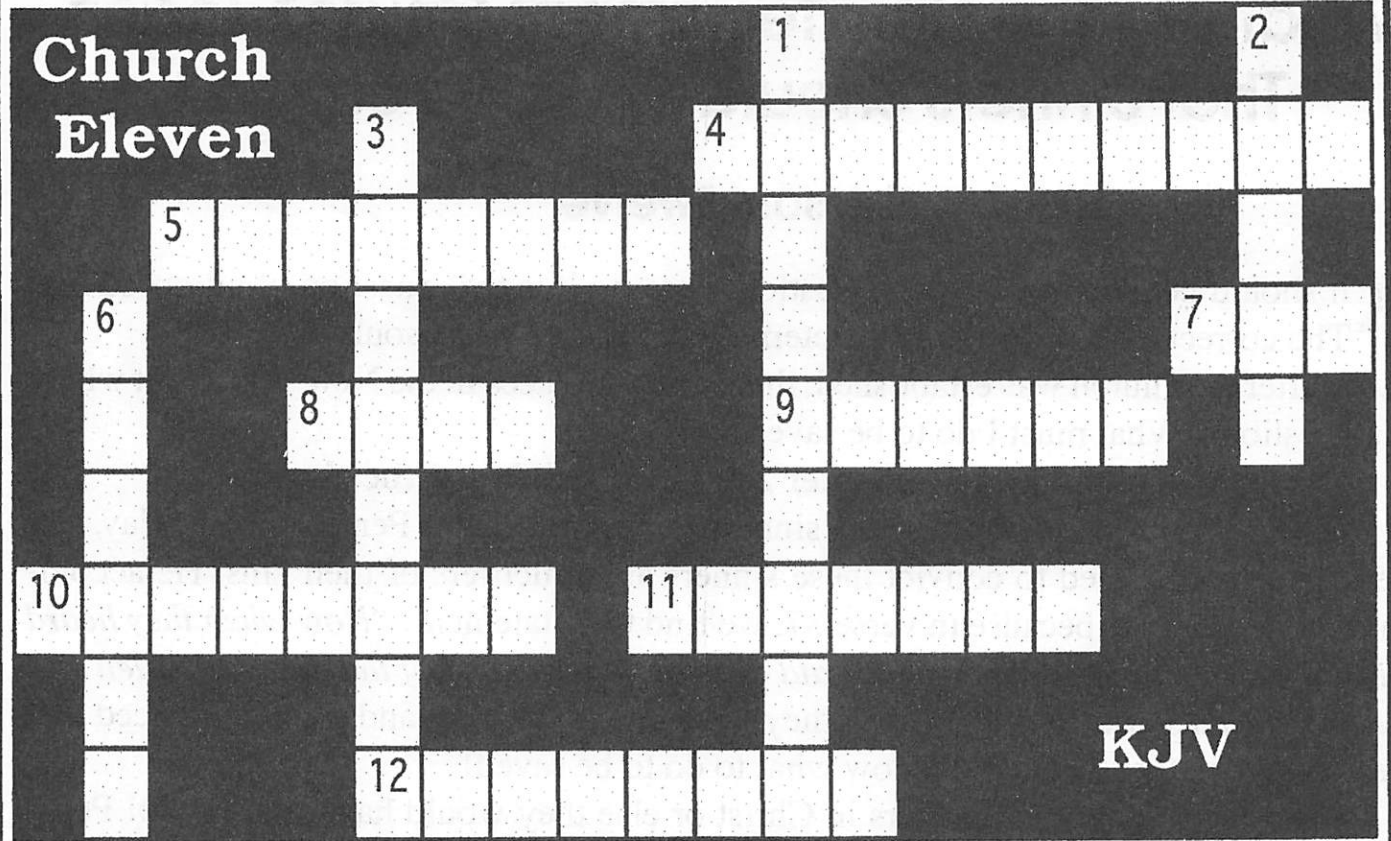
When Jesus taught on the subject of marriage, divorce, and remarriage, He recognized the account of creation in Genesis as being true. He said: *“And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning `made them male and female,?’”* (Matthew 19:4). He also accepted the authenticity of the flood when He said: *“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the*

coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:37).

Yes, the true Christians in the New Testament church ignored the teachings of men, and followed only the men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. They believed and referred to the examples found in the Old Testament even though the Old Testament had been fulfilled. They knew that God had given them a New Covenant, and that in it they were being furnished inspired instructions how to please God.

Therefore, if we are to be pleasing to God today, we must also follow only His word.

Church Eleven



KJV

ACROSS

- 4** An attitude that should not be present when giving to God (2 Cor. 9:7)
- 5** God loves this kind of giver (2 Cor. 9:7)
- 7** One of three descriptions of Jesus (John 14:6)
- 8** Another name for Jerusalem from which the word would go forth (Isa. 2:3)
- 9** "*admonishing one another in ----- and hymns and spiritual songs*" (Col. 3:16)
- 10** "*For men shall be lovers of their own selves, -----*" (2 Tim. 3:2)

- 11** A word associated with spirit and truth (John 4:24)
- 12** That which Christians must do regarding the grace of God (1 Pet. 4:10).

DOWN

- 1** The standard for Christian giving (1 Cor. 16:2)
- 2** Jesus used this word to describe how long Christ would be with His Apostles (Mt. 28:20)
- 3** The kind of times foretold by Paul for the last days (2 Tim. 3:1)
- 6** A word to avoid that follows being unthankful (2 Tim. 3:2).

What Did The New Testament Church Teach That Sinners Should Do To Be Saved?

Lesson Twelve

All should be interested in this question, because it is the question of all questions! The correct answer involves the eternal salvation of one's soul.

After the church was established, there are two places in the New Testament where this question, "What must I do to be saved?" is asked:

(1) It was asked in Acts chapter 2, on the birthday of the church.

Peter preached to thousands of sinners on this particular Pentecost feast day. His message was designed to convict these sinners and crucifiers of their sins. He accomplished his purpose, because in verse 37, we find this statement: "*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?'*" Since they were cut to the heart and were convinced that they were lost, they wanted to know what to do to be saved!

They were already believers in Christ or else they would have tried to kill Peter. Therefore, he told them what they must do to obtain forgiveness of their sins: "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*" Peter, what is the purpose of doing this? His answer, "*for the remission of sins; (vs. 38).*"

What is meant by: "*for the remission of sins?*" He is saying, "so that your sins may be forgiven!" Thus, Peter told them what they must do to be saved. He has answered the significant question: "What must I do to be saved?"

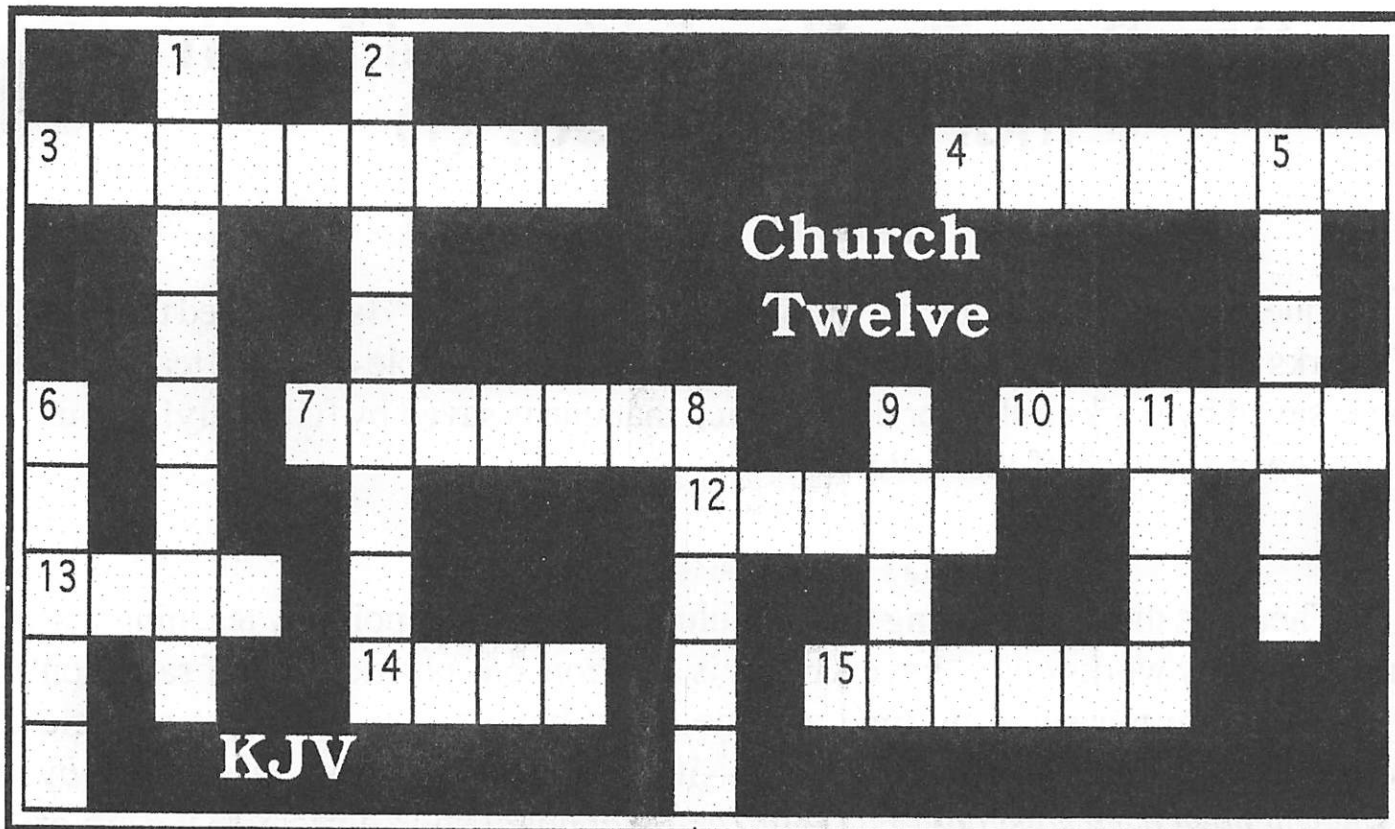
(2) This important question is also asked by a Philippian jailor in Acts chapter 16.

This jailor was guarding the prison where Paul and Silas were kept. At midnight, God sent an earthquake and opened all the doors of the prison. The jailor was ready to take his life when Paul told him not to do so, because they were all present. Then the jailor came in trembling and asked: "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*" (Acts 16:30).

Unlike the audience on Pentecost, this man was not a believer—he was a heathen jailor! Therefore, Paul told him to: "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household*" (vs. 31). The next verse tells how Paul and Silas made him and his family believers: "*Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house*" (Acts 16:32).

Did Paul teach them to be baptized as Peter taught in Acts chapter 2? Yes, because verse 33 says, "*...And immediately he and all his family were baptized*" (Acts 16:33).

We must all answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" in the same way today when seeking salvation.



ACROSS

- 3** A city that was under great persecution (Acts 8:1)
- 4** A city with a church that had certain prophets and teachers (Acts 13:1)
- 7** Paul predicted “a ----- away” and the man of sin revealed (2 Thes. 2:3)
- 10** Paul sent for these men who lived in Ephesus (Acts 20:17)
- 12** “And the Lord ----- to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47)
- 13** A part of the human body applied to the church in Jerusalem (Acts 11:22)
- 14** A man who made havoc of the church (Acts 8:3)
- 15** The church made this without
31 ceasing for Peter (Acts 12:5).

DOWN

- 1** Paul wrote of evil ones of the future: “*despisers of those that are good, -----, heady*” (2 Tim. 3:2-4)
- 2** A man who went to Tarsus seeking Saul (Acts 11:25)
- 5** When restoring an erring person, if they neglect to hear, “*tell it to the -----*” (Mt. 18:17)
- 6** The extent to which they ordained elders in churches (Acts 14:23)
- 8** A figure describing what would not prevail against Christ’s church (Mt. 16:18)
- 9** “*And great ----- came upon all the church*” (Acts 5:11)
- 11** An object used to describe faith (Acts 14:27).

How Does The New Testament Teach That One Is Saved? (1)

Lesson Thirteen

The question often arises today, “How is one saved from sin?” Is one saved through works only? Through faith only? Please learn that the Bible does not teach that one is saved by works only, nor does it teach that one is saved by faith only! Let us briefly consider each of these views:

NOT BY WORKS ONLY

There are those who swing the pendulum to its farthest point by teaching that one is saved by works only. However, this is an erroneous position! For if salvation in heaven were measured by time, no one could buy or earn by works a single second. In fact, salvation is not for sale—it is a special gift from God: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

In the above statement from Paul, he was writing about meritorious works—works that deserve a reward or praise. If one could be saved by meritorious works, he or she could face the Lord at the Judgment Day and demand eternal life. Each one could make the plea that I have earned it. However, this could never be possible!

Also in this same powerful declaration from Paul, he reveals that one is saved by grace. Remember, grace is defined in this context as a favor that is unmerited. God extended the greatest favor possible to lost humanity when *“...He gave His only begotten Son,”* (John 3:16). This was (and is today) a favor undeserved! Therefore, when one swings the pendulum to this extreme, to teach salvation by works only (works of merit), this is a teaching contrary to the word of God.

NOT BY FAITH ONLY

Then there are those who swing the pendulum to the opposite extreme and teach that sinners are saved by faith only. This is just as wrong as teaching salvation by works only! It is running from one extreme to another. Why is this true? Because there is a vast difference between saying: “I am saved by faith,” and saying: “I am saved by faith only.” The first, “saved by faith” is a Bible truth, but the latter

“saved by faith only” is a teaching from man. The only time one can find the words “faith only” in the New Testament is in the book of James. Then he uses the statement to describe a faith that is dead. “*You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only*” (James 2:24).

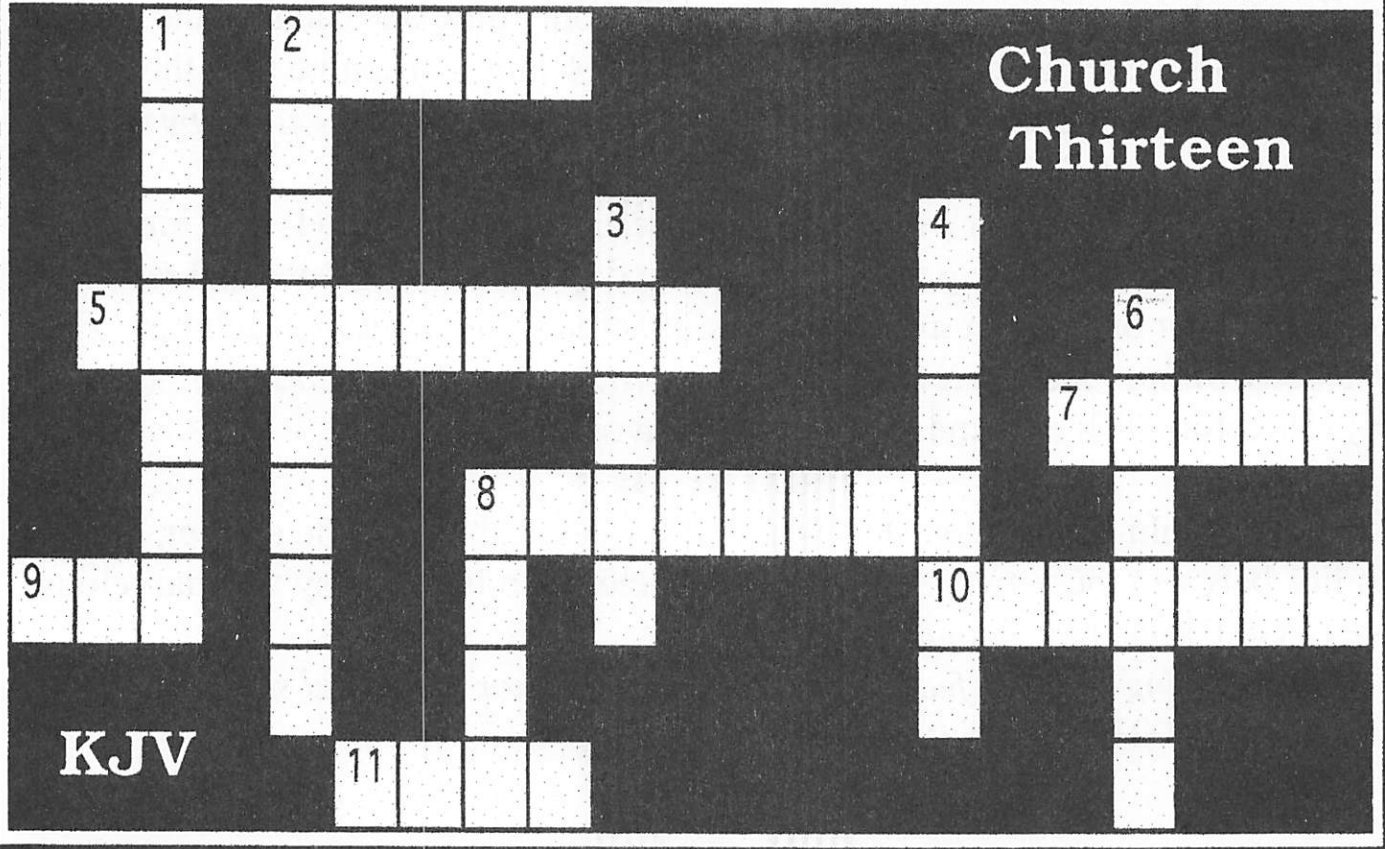
James is writing about works of obedience and action for good—not meritorious works. He is condemning the idea of sitting down in disobedience and refusing to help a brother or sister in trouble. James illustrates this point by teaching: “*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also*” (James 2:26). Therefore, this extreme should also be avoided!

THE TRUTH

This should lead all to ask, “Where does the truth lie?” The answer, God’s truth lies between these two extremes. The sinner who is saved by the marvelous grace of God, must have a faith that obeys.

“*And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him*” (Hebrews 5:9).

Church Thirteen



KJV

ACROSS

- 2** One who was host to Paul (Rom. 16:23)
- 5** A math term describing church growth (Acts 9:31)
- 7** A word applied to animals used to describe the church (Acts 20:28)
- 8** These received Paul, Barnabas, and others in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:4)
- 9** The way Paul felt toward the church before his conversion (Acts 26:11)
- 10** “*And from Miletus he sent to -----, and called the elders of the church*” (Acts 20:17)
- 11** The way Paul had persecuted the church (Phil. 3:6).

DOWN

- 1** That which Paul did to the church at Caesarea (Acts 18:22)
- 2** Paul, Barnabas, and others declared “*the conversion of the -----*” (Acts 15:3)
- 3** A ruler who harassed certain ones of the church (Acts 12:1)
- 4** The apostles, elders, and the whole church “*sent ----- men*” to Antioch (Acts 15:22)
- 6** The ones Paul called from the church at Ephesus (Acts 20:17)
- 8** “*The churches of ---- salute you*” (1 Cor. 16:19).

How Does The New Testament Teach That One Is Saved? (2)

Lesson Fourteen

We have observed in the previous lesson that the New Testament teaches that one is not saved by works only, nor by faith only. In fact, these two extremes are condemned, and God's word teaches that sinners are saved by the grace of God when they have a faith that obeys.

The same apostle Paul who taught that one is saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), explained in his letter to the Romans, how this is accomplished: *"and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,"* (Romans 1:4,5).

Paul said that he received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith. Was Paul's obedience meritorious works? No, certainly not! But rather, works of love.

Paul also wrote to those of Philippi: *"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;"* (Philippians 2:12). Did Paul mean for them to purchase or earn salvation by their works? Not at all, but he meant for the Christians at Philippi to work out or carry out their salvation to its completion.

To the Galatian brethren, he wrote: *"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love"* (Galatians 5:6).

A SPECIAL GIFT — When Jesus offered to the world His blood for salvation, He offered it as a gift, but He also offered certain conditions that had to be met to receive the gift.

To illustrate, suppose someone very rich told you, "turn around two times and I will give you \$10,000." After you had turned around two times, you would expect to receive the gift. Why? Because you met the conditions specified, even though you did not earn it. However, should you refuse to meet the conditions, the rich person would not be obligated to give you the gift.

Please observe the conditions set forth by the Lord and taught in the New

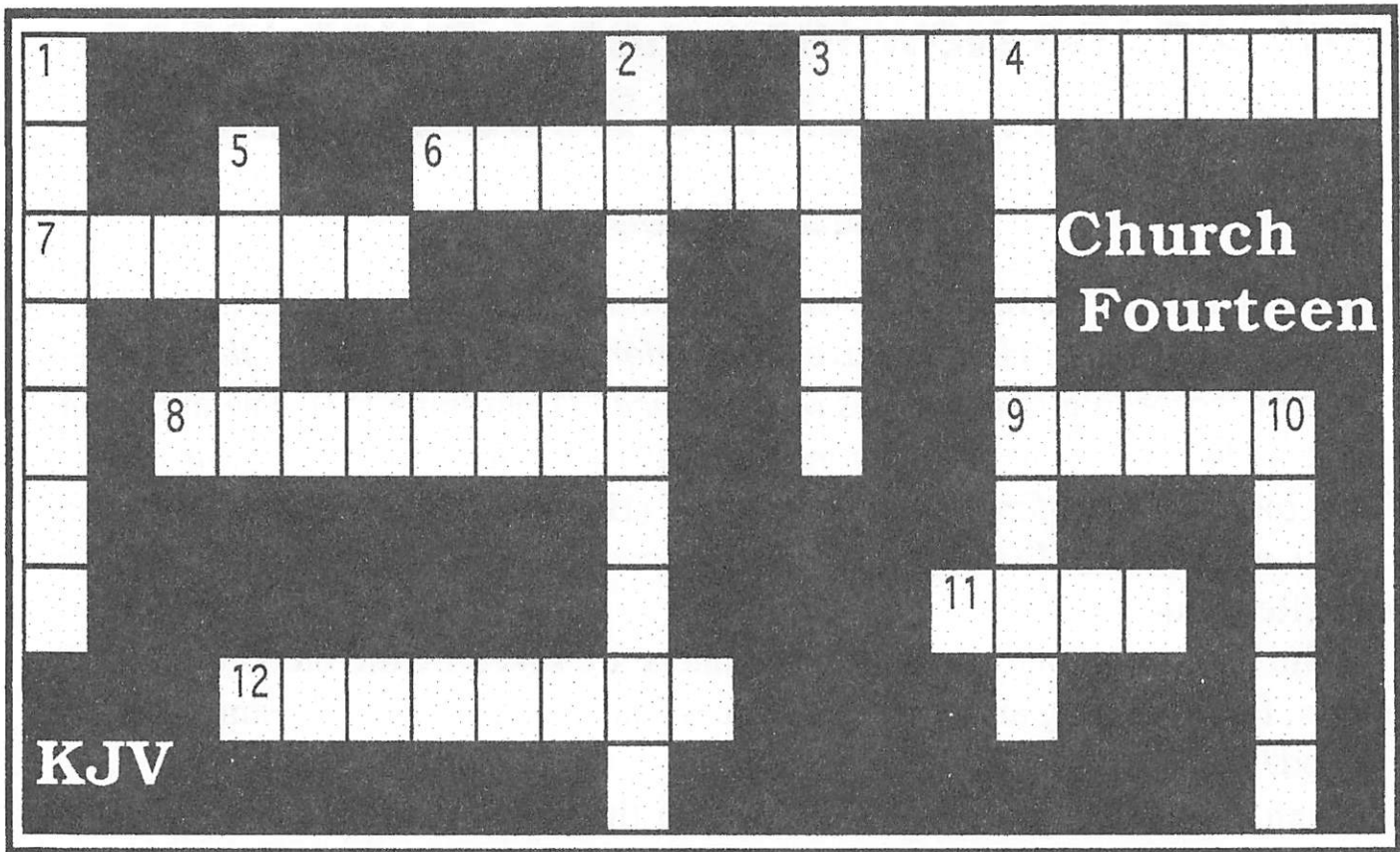
Testament church.

FAITH — The first condition was faith: “*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*” (Hebrews 11:6). Even associated with the condition of faith, there is a certain amount of work done to accomplish it. “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Romans 10:17). **REPENTANCE** — The next condition is Repentance. Jesus made this condition essential when He said: “*I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3,5). Also, a few days after Peter had taught repentance in Acts 2:38, he further taught: “*Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, ..*” (Acts 3:19).

CONFESSION AND BAPTISM — Two other conditions that are essential to receive grace and salvation are confessing Christ to be God’s Son, and then being baptized (Romans 10:9,10; Mark 16:16).

In fact, Jesus went so far as to say to Nicodemus: “*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God*” (John 3:5).

LIVING FOR JESUS — The final condition for grace and salvation is to live for Jesus faithfully until death. In the words of Jesus to one of the churches of Asia: “*Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life*” (Revelation 2:10).



ACROSS

- 3** Something Jesus did with His own blood for His church (Acts 20:28)
- 6** “Unto the church of God which is at -----” (1 Cor. 1:2)
- 7** The husband of Priscilla (1 Cor. 16:19)
- 8** The third thing mentioned that God set in the church (1 Cor. 12:28)
- 9** The kind of building where the church met (Rom. 16:5)
- 11** Something the elders were to do for the church (Acts 20:28)
- 12** That which the church in Corinth needed (1 Cor. 14:5).

DOWN

- 1** The way the church in Corinth was toward spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 14:12)
- 2** This was in the church at Corinth, but partly believed (1 Cor. 11:18)
- 3** A sister to Paul in the church (Rom. 16:1)
- 4** This woman was a servant of the church at ----- (Rom. 16:1)
- 5** The number of words Paul had rather speak with understanding (1 Cor. 14:19)
- 10** Paul sent Timothy to remind them of Paul’s ways in Christ “in ----- church” (1 Cor. 4:17).

How Did The New Testament Church Teach That Sinners Reach The Blood Of Christ?

Lesson Fifteen

The Bible reveals the fact that there is salvation only in the blood of Christ Paul wrote of Jesus: *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Ephesians 1:7). The author of the book of Hebrews wrote: *"Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate"* (Hebrews 13:12). The apostle John put it this way: *"...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood"* (Revelation 1:5).

Who then, can honestly deny that sinners are saved by the blood of Christ? However, false teaching arises when the question is asked: "How do sinners reach this blood?"

Even though Christ's blood was shed for the whole world, Jesus taught that the vast majority will be lost. *"...for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it"* (Matthew 7:13). Why is this so? Because the vast majority will not reach His saving blood!

One of the best ways to answer how sinners reach the blood of Christ for salvation, is to study a New Testament example. The book of Romans is a letter written to Christians in Rome, and they had already been saved by the blood of Christ when Paul wrote them. Therefore, he referred to how they had accomplished this when he wrote: *"But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness"* (Romans 6:17-18).

When did Paul say they were set free from sin? The answer, when they *"obeyed that form of doctrine."* The doctrine he referred to is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The sinner is not commanded to obey these three things in a literal sense! Sinners are not commanded to physically die on a cross, be buried in a tomb, and then physically resurrected. However, the sinner is required to obey a form of His death, burial, and resurrection.

How had the Roman Christians done this? To answer this question, we have only to turn back to Romans 6:3-5. In these verses, Paul explains how they (as well as himself) had obeyed a form of His death, burial, and resurrection.

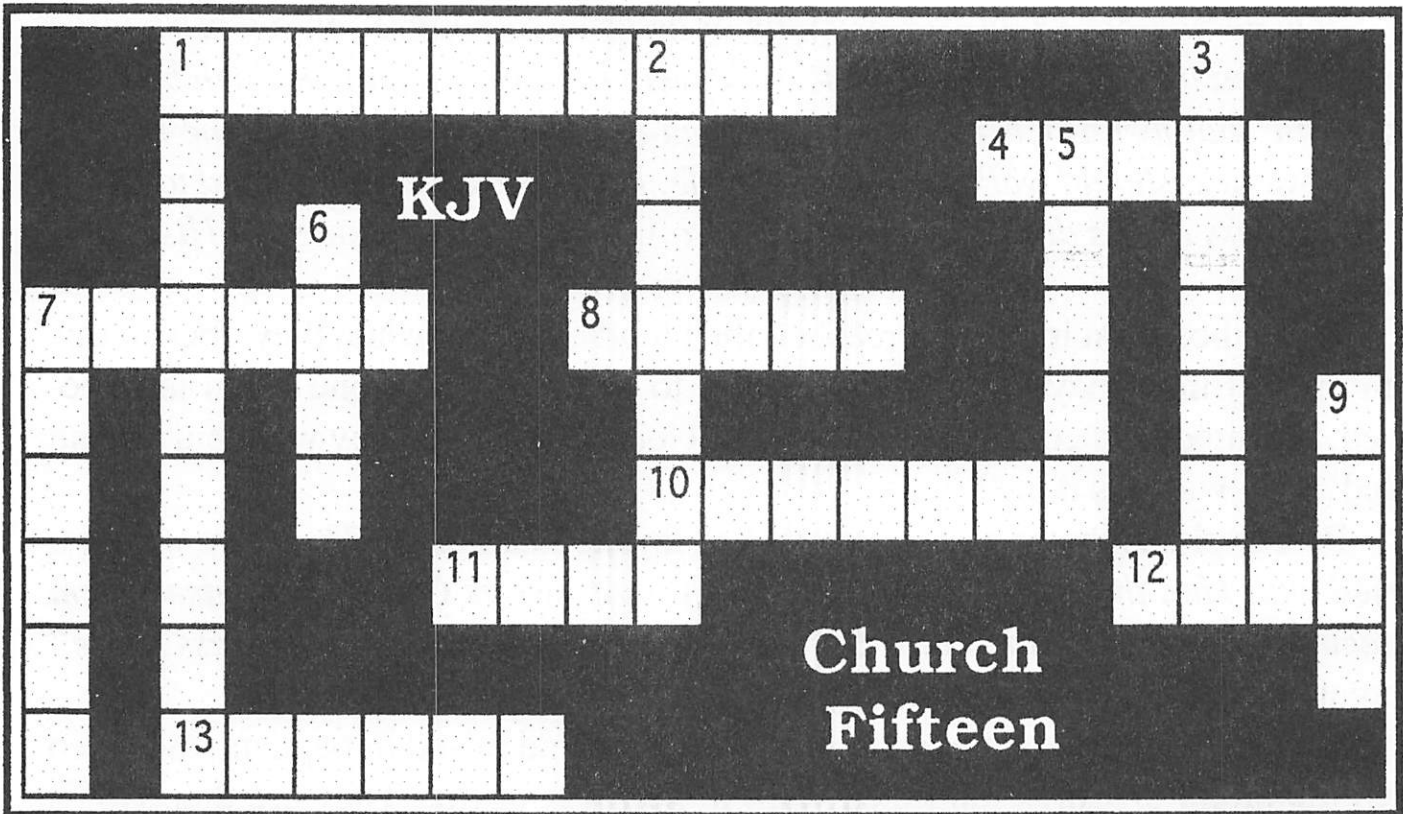
“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”

Thus, those lost in sin had reached the blood of Christ when they obeyed this form of doctrine. They had first of all died to sin. This was done when they believed, repented, and confessed Christ to be God’s Son. Then they were buried and raised. How was this done?

Paul explains that it was accomplished through baptism. *“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:4).

When sinners today die to sin, and are buried and raised in baptism, they also reach the blood of Christ, and then walk in newness of life. They are then God’s new creation in Christ

“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).



ACROSS

- 1 That which Paul did to the church of God (1 Cor. 15:9)
- 4 Something important toward God in the church (Eph. 3:21)
- 7 That which Paul did to the church before his conversion (Gal. 1:13)
- 8 "for it is a shame for ----- to speak in the church" (1 Cor. 14:35)
- 10 The one Paul says is the head of the wife (Eph. 5:23)
- 11 Christ is "the head over all things to the church, which is His ----" (Eph. 1:22,23)
- 12 The way Paul had earlier persecuted the church (Phil. 3:6)
- 13 "with all the saints which are in all -----" (2 Cor. 1:1).

DOWN

- 1 A woman who saluted much in the Lord (1 Cor. 16:19)
- 2 A spiritual brother loved dearly by Paul (2 Tim. 1:2)
- 3 A blemish God does not want in His (Eph. 5:27)
- 5 The way Christ felt toward the church (Eph. 5:25)
- 6 "even as Christ is the ---- of the church" (Eph. 5:23)
- 7 Something of God that is called manifold (Eph. 3:10)
- 9 Christ wanted His church presented: "---- and without blemish" (Eph. 5:27).

How Did The New Testament Church Feel About Prayer?

Lesson Sixteen

One cannot read far into the history of the church until learning that prayer was a vital part of their worship. In fact, it is said of the three thousand who were converted on the day of Pentecost: “*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers*” (Acts 2:42).

Prayer was not just a ritual with them, but rather a sincere conversation with God while believing that He would answer. For they truly prayed by faith.

When James wrote that they should ask God for wisdom, he warned: “*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*” (James 1:6-7).

The early Christians in Christ's church prayed fervently to God when they were facing troubles. For example, while Paul and Silas were in prison at Philippi, the mid-night hour found them praying and singing hymns (Acts 16:25).

Peter and John were joined by other Christians in prayer when the Jewish counsel threatened them. Luke records that they: “*raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 'Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,'*” (Acts 4:24).

Later on when Peter was imprisoned, the church prayed earnestly for him (Acts 12:5).

INSTRUCTED TO PRAY

Therefore, as congregations of the New Testament church were established throughout the Roman Empire, these churches were instructed by Paul in his letters to pray. Please observe a few of these taken from Paul's letters as they appear in the New Testament:

To the Christians at Rome, he wrote: “*rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;*” (Romans 12:12).

To the Christian married couples of Corinth, he commanded: “*Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control*” (1 Corinthians 7:5).

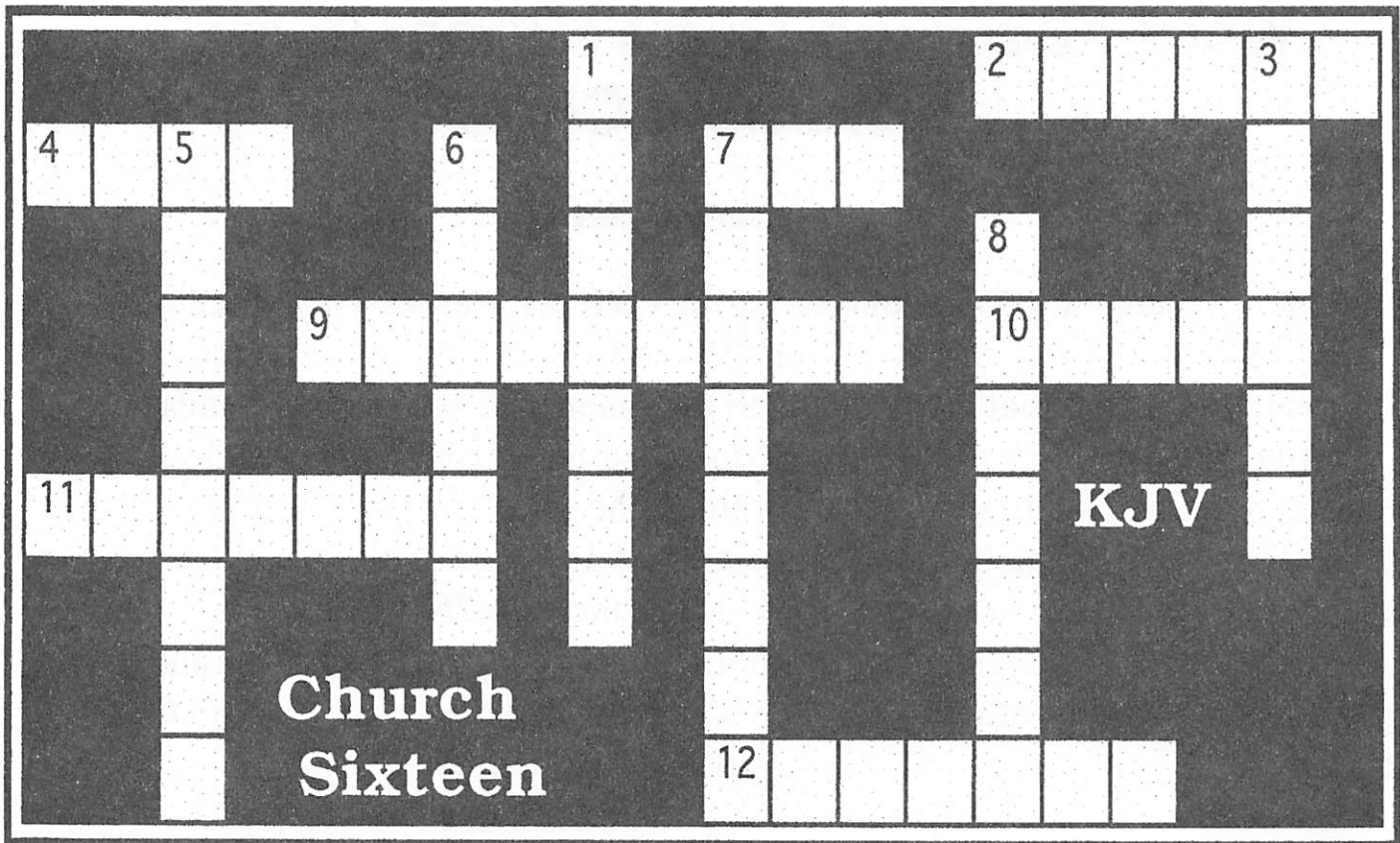
The Ephesian brethren were taught: “*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*” (Ephesians 6:18).

In Philippians 4:6, Paul penned these words: "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*"

The Christians in Colosse were admonished to: "*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;*" (Colossians 4:2).

Finally, to the Thessalonian Christians, Paul wrote: "*pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).

Therefore, the New Testament church was a praying church. They believed that with acceptable prayer, they could turn on the power of God!



ACROSS

- 2 *“And to our beloved -----, and Archippus”* (Philemon 1:2)
- 4 Something for the elders of the church to do for the sick (Jas. 5:14)
- 7 *“how shall he take care of the church of ---?”* (1 Tim. 3:5)
- 9 That which Christ is *“from the dead”* (Col. 1:18)
- 10 Paul sends this from God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 6:23)
- 11 This one’s house was used by the church (Col. 4:15)
- 12 That which the church is to
43 Christ (Eph. 5:24).

DOWN

- 1 Something great about Christ and the church (Eph. 5:32)
- 3 The kind of widows the church can relieve (1 Tim. 5:16)
- 5 *“To the general ----- and church of the firstborn”* (Heb. 12:23)
- 6 *“I speak concerning ----- and the church”* (Eph. 5:32)
- 7 The kind of church that Jesus wanted presented to Himself (Eph. 5:27)
- 8 That which Paul wanted read also in the church at Laodicea (Col. 4:16).

What About The Lord's Supper In The New Testament Church?

Lesson Seventeen

The New Testament reveals that the Lord's Supper was very significant to the early Christians. The importance of the Lord's Supper began with the fact that Jesus instituted it, and that it was set forth as a memorial service of His death.

After Jesus and His disciples had observed the Jewish Passover, Jesus took the same ingredients—bread and the fruit of the vine, and instituted the Lord's Supper. The bread was to be eaten in memory of His broken body, and the fruit of the vine was in remembrance of His blood (Matthew 26:26-29).

There has never been a greater memorial than this. Memorial statues and buildings wear and crumble with the passing of centuries, but this memorial remains new and alive in the hearts of faithful Christians in all generations.

How often did the early Christians partake of the Lord's Supper? The example left for us to follow suggests each Sunday—each first day of the week. *“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them”* (Acts 20:7).

This example tells us that they met on the first day of the week, Sunday, to break bread. After searching the entire New Testament, one cannot find where they were ever given permission to skip a Sunday or first day of the week. Not only is this New Testament example found for our learning, but history and various writings of uninspired men also verify the fact that these first Christians observed the Lord's Supper EVERY Sunday.

When Paul revealed the instituting of the Lord's Supper to the Corinthian Christians, he quoted Jesus as saying: *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes”* (1 Corinthians 11:26). What could be more important to Christians than remembering the Lord's death?

But someone might object by saying: “Every Sunday is too often—every three months or twice each year is sufficient!” Remember, Christians of all centuries must encounter the work of the devil every week of our lives, and our only hope of winning over his evil devices is by the Lord's death. Therefore, the coming together of the disciples each Sunday to break bread and to remember His death was not too often. Neither is it too often today.

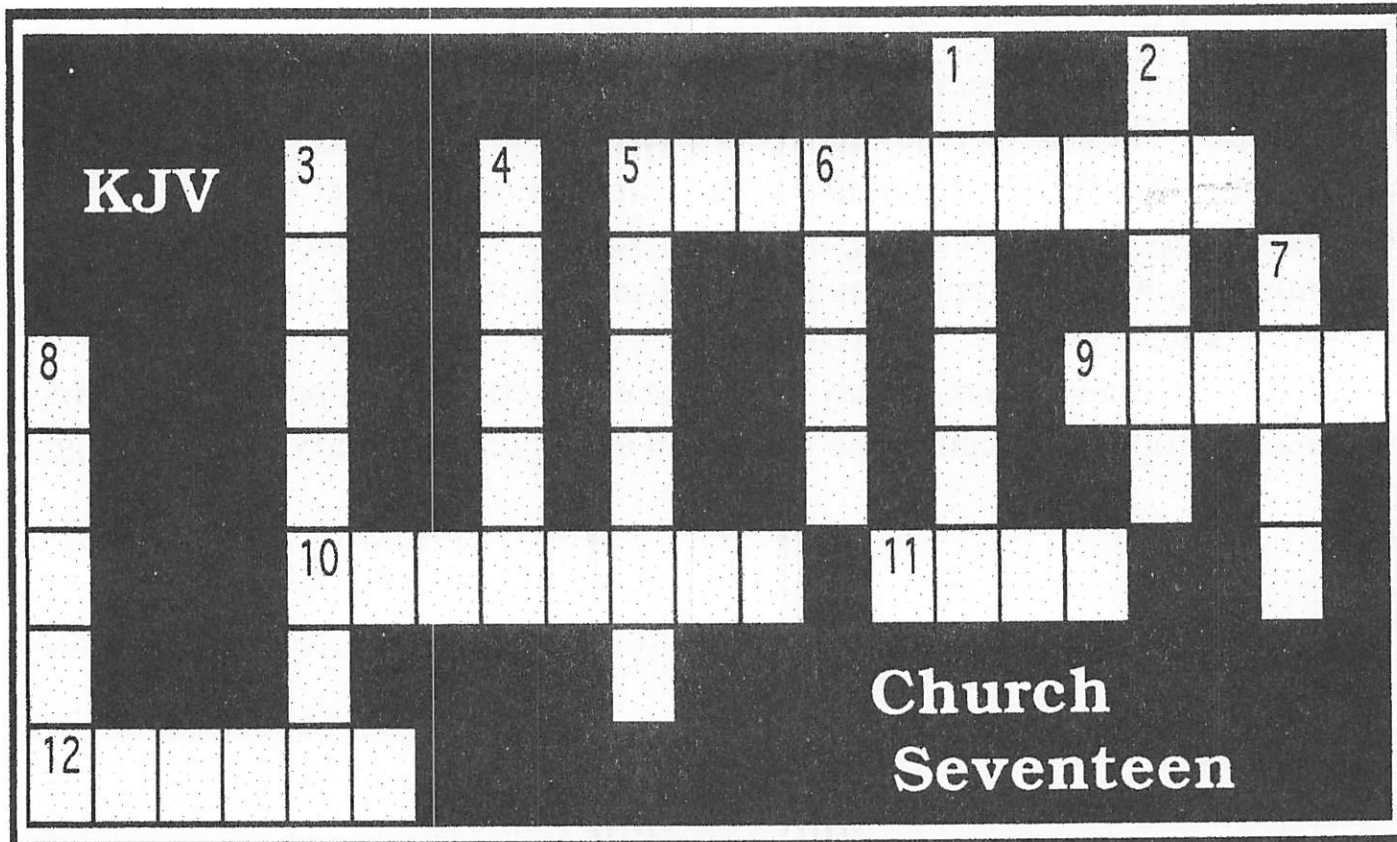
Keep in mind that Sunday is the Lord's day, and can you think of a better way

to honor Him than to observe the memorial of His death?

Therefore, let us be reminded that it was not enough just to eat and drink the Lord's Supper! They were required to eat and drink it in a worthy manner. Paul warned them: *"For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body"* (1 Corinthians 11:29).

Thus, they ate and drank in an unworthy manner when they failed to discern the Lord's body.

A New Testament church today will make every effort to properly discern His body, and will follow the same New Testament example of properly remembering.



ACROSS

- 5 Something done to the churches (Acts 15:41)
- 9 A number that Jesus applied to the Spirits of God (Rev. 3:1)
- 10 A church where Paul's epistle should be read (Col. 4:16)
- 11 Another word used for Hades that would not prevail against the church (Mt. 16:18)
- 12 One of the seven churches of Asia (Rev. 2:8).

DOWN

- 1 Something to be sung in the midst of the church (Heb. 2:12)
- 2 "*Unto the ----- of the church of Ephesus*" (Rev. 2:1)
- 3 A church was located at this place (1 Pet. 5:13)
- 4 A sharp instrument mentioned to the church at Pergamos (Rev. 2:12)
- 5 "*for His body's sake, which is the -----*" (Col. 1:24)
- 6 A word used to describe the eyes of the Son of God (Rev. 2:18)
- 7 The way the churches walked as to the Lord (Acts 9:31)
- 8 A partner to Paul (2 Cor. 8:23).

What Type Of Music Did The New Testament Church Use?

Lesson Eighteen

The church of the New Testament has left us an example of various ways to worship God. The worship they engaged in not only met the requirements of the commandments of God, but it was also a great strength in their spiritual lives. What type of music did the New Testament church use? Or, along this same line of thinking, what type of songs were used?

Since the majority of religions today use some type of mechanical instrument in their worship, some may be shocked to learn that this was not true in New Testament times. After one has run every single reference in the New Testament that deals with music, he or she will find **VOCAL MUSIC ONLY** in the worship of the New Testament church.

PAUL'S TEACHING

The apostle Paul commanded the kind of music to be used when he wrote to the Ephesians: "*speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*" (Ephesians 5:19).

To the Colossian brethren, he wrote: "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord*" (Colossians 3:16).

Would you please observe that Paul specified several things in these verses:

(1) They were to speak with songs to each other. This would necessitate all Christians involved in the singing. **(2) They were to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.** Since these three were specified, all other types of songs were eliminated. **(3) They were to sing and make melody in their hearts to the Lord.** Please observe, he did not say, sing and play, but simply sing with the heart.

There has never been a machine made that can be an improvement over the heart in worship. Under the Christian age, the emphasis in worship is "*in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24).

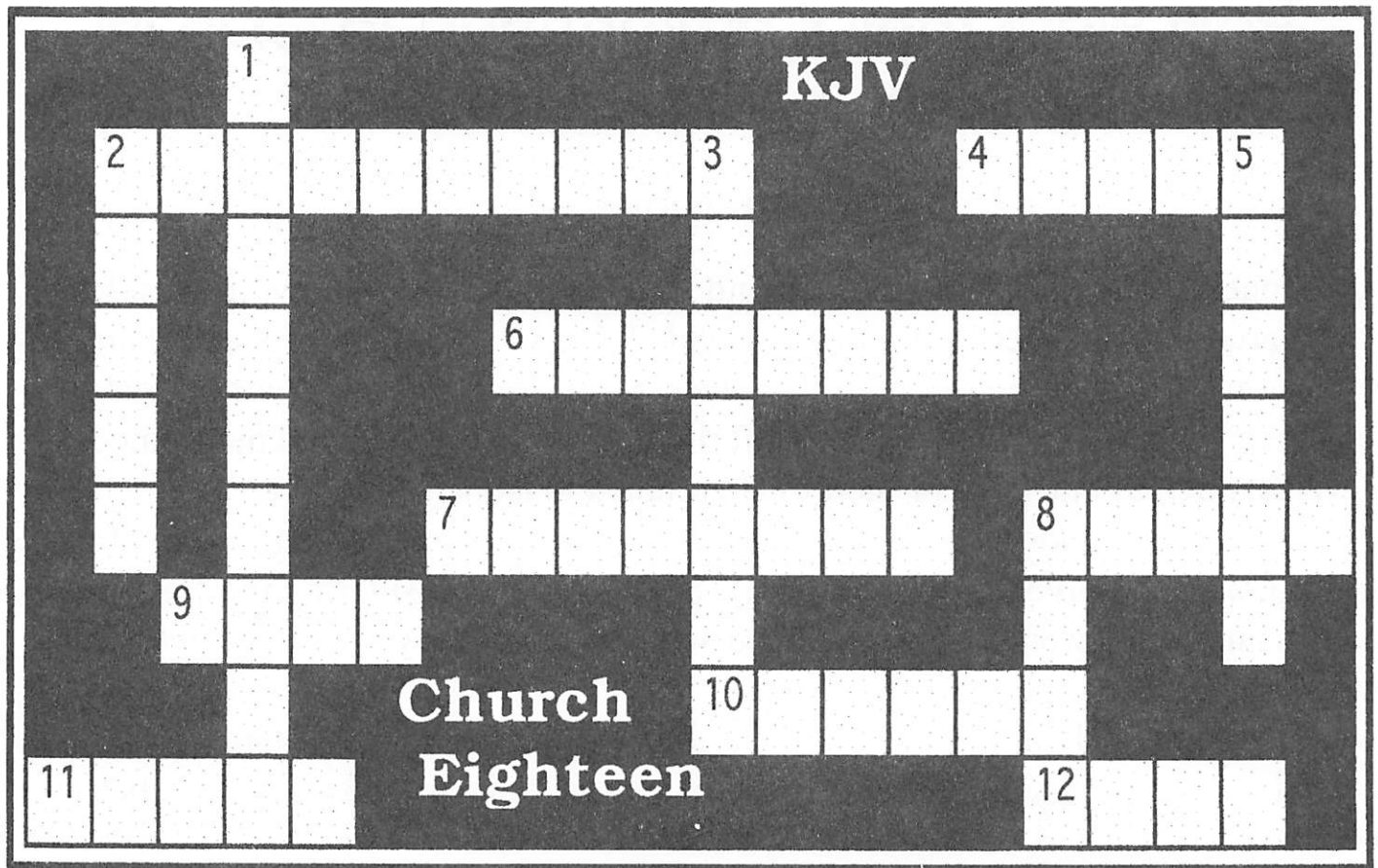
The woman at Jacob's well, inquired of Jesus as to the right place to worship. She wanted to know if it should be done in the mountain or in Jerusalem, In verse 23, He answered: "*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers*

will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him” (John 4:23). Then He summed it all up in verse 24: *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”* (John 4:24).

SPIRIT AND TRUTH

When one worships according to the teaching of the word of God, this is in truth, and when these commandments are obeyed with the heart, this is in spirit. Although man has made many additions and changes to music in worship, no one can improve upon God’s way—the heart.

It was several centuries before the mechanical instrument was introduced to worship, but such was NEVER authorized in the worship of the New Testament church.



ACROSS

- 2 A man who wanted to have the preeminence in the church (3 John 1:9)
- 4 That in which the churches were established (Acts 16:5)
- 6 The church at Laodicea had a temperature problem (Rev. 3:14-16)
- 7 The lot fell on this man to be an apostle (Acts 1:26)
- 8 The kind of shepherd that identifies Jesus (1 Pet. 5:4)
- 9 One thing that Peter would do on earth (Mt. 16:19)
- 10 Something that increased in the churches (Acts 16:5)

- 11 "shall be ----- in heaven" (Mt. 16:19)
- 12 These were stopped when Stephen preached (Acts 7:57).

DOWN

- 1 That of which God is not the author (1 Cor. 14:33)
- 2 Jesus spoke of this man's key (Rev. 3:7)
- 3 "And they stoned -----, calling upon God" (Acts 7:59)
- 5 A place where John saw an open door (Rev. 4:1)
- 8 Something that Paul did for all the churches (2 Cor. 11:28).

How Were They Commanded To Give In The New Testament Church?

Lesson Nineteen

As one studies the Old Testament and the giving under the Law of Moses, it is learned that the people were commanded to give a tenth. However, this represented only a part of their giving. For when all forms of giving are considered such as all the various feasts and freewill offerings, it has been estimated that some Jews gave as much as one third of their total earnings to God.

The giving under the Old Testament law was set up more on the order of a tax system, and was given to the Jews only. Since we are considering the New Testament church, we want to be concerned with how the early Christians were commanded to give.

Some today believe that Christians are commanded to give a tenth just as had been done under the Old Testament law of Moses. This is a false teaching, because nowhere in the history of the church is this commandment or example found. The giving of Christians was based on principles that were motivated from the heart, and this led to a percentage that exceeded the tithing of the Jews. Would you study some of these principles:

(1) They were taught principles of stewardship.

The idea of stewardship recognizes the fact that everything belongs to God, and that all must give an account for the way such is used. Peter wrote: "*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God*" (1 Peter 4:10).

Jesus taught the principle that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). He also taught that we lay up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19) when we give our all to Him.

(2) New Testament Christians were to give as they had been prospered (1 Corinthians 16:2).

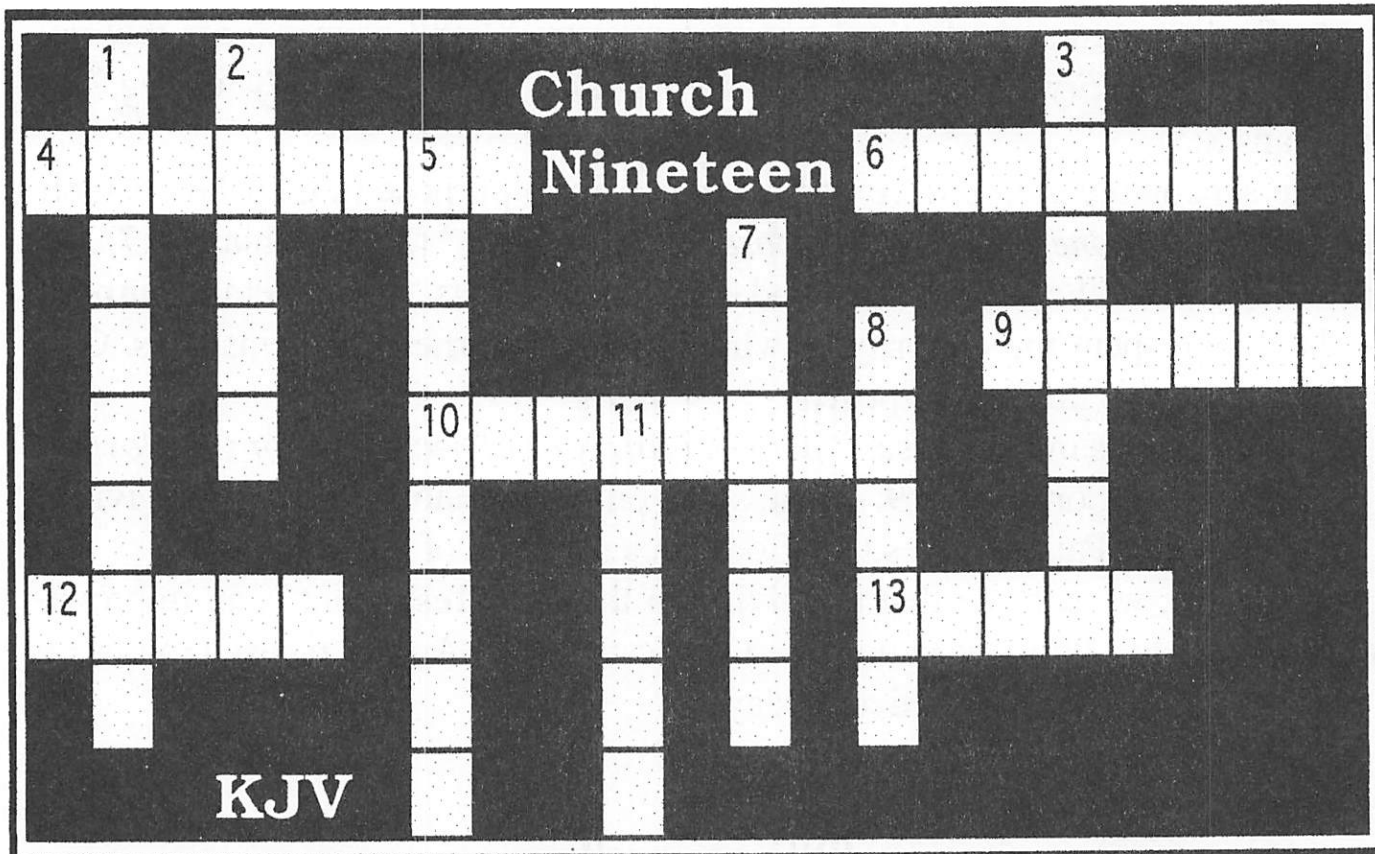
God does not expect Christians to give beyond that which they have prospered. It is not enough just to give a large percent, but the heart of the giver must be right. When we pay our taxes today, we may have all kinds of ill feelings about doing so, but if the amount is correct and on time, the debt is satisfied. However, this is not true with New Testament giving! They were required not only to give, but to be willing givers.

As Paul praised some faithful givers, he wrote: "*For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,*" (2 Corinthians 8:3).

The acceptable givers were commanded also to purpose in their hearts their gifts: "*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart,..*" (2 Corinthians 9:7). As Christians purpose, they need to put God first in their hearts. Some seem to purpose after they have spent the majority of what they have earned on themselves. God does not accept this kind of purpose.

Paul continues in this verse: "*not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver*" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Thus, the only acceptable heart (when giving) is a cheerful heart. Paul declares that God loves this kind of giver.

Therefore, we can see that the giving in the New Testament is an improvement over the old tithing system of the Old Testament. . And to please God, New Testament giving must be practiced today.



ACROSS

- 4** This church received a message from the Son of God (Rev. 2:18)
- 6** The church that had left something of great importance (Rev. 2:1-4)
- 9** The place where John saw an opened door (Rev.4:1)
- 10** A special medicine for the church at Laodicea (Rev. 3:18)
- 12** A specified kind of metal applied to the feet of the Son of God (Rev. 2:18)
- 13** A word describing how often the early church preached Christ (Acts 5:42).

DOWN

- 1** Jesus is called "*the chief* -----" (1 Pet. 5:4)
- 2** "*One Lord, one -----, one baptism*" (Eph. 4:5)
- 3** A wicked woman who called herself a prophetess (Rev. 2:20)
- 5** "*when His glory shall be -----,*" (1 Pet. 4:13)
- 7** A sinful doctrine was named after this man (Rev. 2:14)
- 8** Elders are to have this kind of mind (1 Pet. 5:2)
- 11** "*To the ----- churches which are in Asia*" (Rev. 1:4).

How Can The New Testament Church Be Restored Today?

Lesson Twenty

Ever since the birthday of the New Testament church, (AD. 33), thousands of additions have been made. Some look at all these doctrines of men and become discouraged, but you can be assured that there is a way to restore Christ's church.

First of all, the New Testament teaches that the word of God is like seed. So, when the seed (the word) of the kingdom is planted in its purity, the New Testament church or kingdom is produced. This can be done by simply speaking where the Bible speaks, and being silent where the Bible is silent. Therefore, to return to the original plan to restore Christ's church, means giving up the additions and subtractions found in creeds by man over the centuries. Nothing short of this will restore Christ's church and be pleasing to God.

PREVIOUS LESSONS

In previous lessons, an effort has been made to point out the New Testament plan for Christ's church which He purchased with His own blood. Consideration has been given to the true founder, foundation, the place and time of establishment, the things that Peter bound and loosed, the number of churches that Christ built, the names for both His church and members, its organization, the right creed, the proper attitude toward the word of God, true salvation, and the various acts of acceptable worship. When these are observed and obeyed, the pure seed is sowed and His church is restored.

VERY ESSENTIAL

The restoration of the New Testament church is not an option that we have been given, but it is the only way to please God. The apostle Paul warned about what would happen after his time:

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" (2 Timothy 3:1-5). These sins would certainly have an effect on the church.

To the Thessalonians, Paul foretold a falling away for the future:

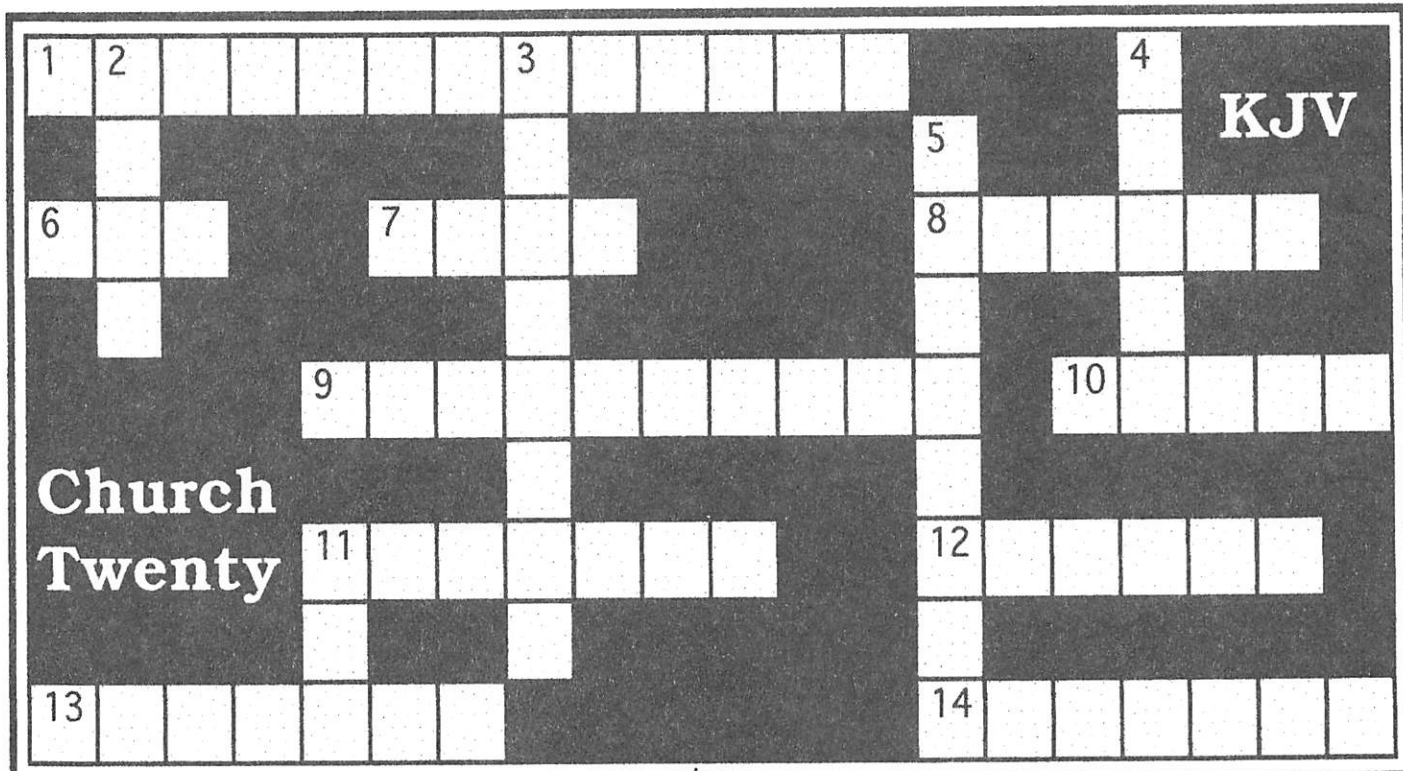
“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

FULFILLED

All of this came to pass as we follow the history of the church, but be assured that when the pure seed (the word) is planted today, Christ’s church comes forth in all its purity. Know also, that the true church is worth restoring. In fact, if all of the churches made by men were added together, this could never equal even a fractional value of the true church.

All of us should remember that someday the spiritual bride (his church) will be presented to Him. If she is free of man’s idolatrous teaching, Christ the Bridegroom will be pleased.

Are you a faithful member of His church? Are you helping to restore the New Testament church by following its pure precepts? If not, please call someone in the church of Christ where teaching is available.



ACROSS

- 1 "Unto the church of the -----
-----" (1 Thes. 1:1)
- 6 "And being brought on their ---
by the church" (Acts 15:3)
- 7 "And He is the head of the ----,
the church" (Col. 1:18)
- 8 "In the midst of the church will
I sing -----" (Heb. 2:12)
- 9 "And the disciples were called
----- first in Antioch"
(Acts 11:26)
- 10 "Then pleased it the apostles
and elders, with the -----
church" (Acts 15:22)
- 11 "To the ----- assembly and
church of the firstborn"
(Heb. 12:23)
- 12 "The house of God, which is
the church of the ----- God"
(1 Tim. 3:15)

13 "Repent for the ----- of
heaven is at hand" (Mt.
4:17)

14 "And when he had landed at
Caesarea, and gone up, and -
----- the church" (Acts
18:22).

DOWN

- 2 "And He is the ---- of the body,
the church" (Col. 1:18)
- 3 "And when they had -----
them elders in every church"
(Acts 14:23)
- 4 "earnestly contend for the
----" (Jude 1:3)
- 5 "they were received of the
church, and of the ----- and
elders" (Acts 15:4)
- 11 "how shall he take care of the
church of ---" (1 Tim. 3:5).

Vision Impaired
Ministry