

Handling Accurately The Word Of GOD

Lesson 4

Topic For This Lesson → THE CHURCH (*ORGANIZATION*)

Biblical Points Of Emphasis

- ◆ It was prophesied (Isa. 2:2-3; Dan. 2:31-44; Joel 2:28-32)
- ◆ It was promised by Jesus (Mt. 16:18)
- ◆ It came into existence in the 1st century in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-47)
- ◆ The “universal” church is taught (Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23-27, 32; Col. 1:18; Heb. 12:23)
 - The church belongs to Jesus...He is its Head
 - Jesus exercises all rule & authority (Mt. 28:18)
 - The church’s headquarters are where the Head is...in heaven
 - This would include all the saints the world over...*both* past and present
- ◆ The idea of a “local” church is also taught (Acts 9:31; 11:26; 13:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2)
 - Christians living & working together in a specific location
- ◆ Local churches are to have organization (Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:5)
 - Local churches must have a plurality of elders (Acts 14:23)
 - Elders must meet certain qualifications to serve (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
 - Elders have specific duties (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2-3; Heb. 13:17)
 - Elders also have other “names” (1 Tim. 3:1; Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 5:1; 1 Pet. 5:2)
 - Deacons must meet certain qualifications to serve (1 Tim. 3:8-10, 12-13)
 - Deacons’ duties are at the discretion of the eldership => some are physical...some are spiritual
 - Though not called “deacons,” Acts 6 provides a good example of such service
 - Some are “empowered” and chosen to “serve” a local group of believers (vv. 2-3)
 - “Serve” is the verb form of the Greek noun for “deacon” [*diakoneo* (v); *diakonos* (n)]
- ◆ The Scripture sets “limitations” on who may be involved in the public work & worship of the church
 - Women are “equal” to men in their relationship with Christ (Gal. 3:26-28; 1 Pet. 3:7)
 - Yet, women are prevented from serving in a church office (1 Tim. 3:1-2, 12; Titus 1:6)
 - It would be just as wrong to have a woman elder or deacon as to have a man elder or deacon who is either unmarried or without children
 - Women are also forbidden to lead in public worship (1 Cor. 14:34-35; 1 Tim. 2:11-12)
- ◆ Each local church is “autonomous” (*independent*) of other local churches (1 Pet. 5:2)
 - There are no “boards” or “conventions” that connect them together
 - They all answer directly to the Head, Christ (*universally*) and to their elders (*locally*)

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Indicate How Each Of The Following Do Not Agree With The Points On The Previous Page

- ♦ Roman Catholic arrangement (*Universal bishop, arch bishops, bishops, priests, dioceses*)
- ♦ Protestant arrangement (*one-pastor system; 12 Mormon apostles*)
- ♦ Centralized earthly location (*Vatican City; national or international headquarters*)
- ♦ Denominational churches founded by men
- ♦ One elder leading a church
- ♦ Women elders, preachers, ministers of music, etc.