

## THE BIRTHDAY OF THE "CHURCH"

### A. The SCRIPTURAL BASICS of the "CHURCH". (Matthew 16:13-18)

### B. The BIRTHDAY of the Church.

#### 1. The OPTIONS. That the Church ...

- a. Began with \_\_\_\_\_ – some in Covenant/ Reformed Theology teach this.
- b. Began with \_\_\_\_\_ – most in Covenant/ Reformed - Replacement Theology teach this.
- c. Began with \_\_\_\_\_ - some Baptists embrace this.
- d. Began with \_\_\_\_\_ - some Baptists and others teach this.
- e. Began after the conversion of \_\_\_\_\_ – Hyper-dispensationalists believe this.
- f. Began at \_\_\_\_\_ with the coming & baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit.

#### 2. The EXEGETICAL OBSERVATIONS about the beginning & birthday of the Church.

- a. John 7:37-39, 14:16-20, 16:7 – What did Jesus Christ predict?
  - b. John 15:1-2 – What did Jesus Christ preach?
  - c. John 17:20-21 – What did Jesus Christ pray for?
  - d. 1 Corinthians 12:13 – What places the believer in union with Christ and His Body, the Church?
  - e. Acts 1:4-5 – What did Jesus Christ predict would happen in just a few days?
  - f. Acts 2:1-4 – What happened 10 days later on the Day of Pentecost?
  - g. Acts 11:15-16 – What does Peter affirm?
- Is there evidence following Pentecost that the Church was now in existence? \_\_\_\_\_
    - a) The usage of the word \_\_\_\_\_ in Acts 2:47, 5:11, 8:1, 8:3, 11:22, 11:26, 12:1,5; 13:1; Gal.1:13, 21-24; 1 Cor.15:9-11; 10:32; etc. gives proof of its existence.
    - b) The usage of the phrase \_\_\_\_\_ which is a unique church age term of identification with Christ due to the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. (Rom.6:1-5; 16:7; Gal.1:22; 3:26-29)

### C. The DOCTRINAL CONCLUSIONS about the beginning & birthday of the Church:

1. The Church began on the day of Pentecost because Jesus Christ promised to build His Church \_\_\_\_\_ to His earthly ministry and was an OT \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt.16:18; Eph. 3:1-9)
2. The Church began on the day of Pentecost because there could be no Church \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ to purchase Her redemption. (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25)
3. The Church began on the day of Pentecost because Christ's Headship (Eph. 5:23) over the Church was \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ into Heaven. (Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:8-13)

4. The Church began on the day of Pentecost because the divine means of placing into the Body of Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor. 12:13)
5. The Church began on the day of Pentecost because the word “church” is repeatedly found immediately \_\_\_\_\_ the day of Pentecost. (see previous verses)

**D. The PRACTICAL RAMIFICATIONS of the beginning and birthday of the Church.**

**1. Covenantal Confusion: If you view the Church as synonymous with Israel, numerous problems result such as ...**

- You will lack a consistent normal, historical, grammatical \_\_\_\_\_.
- You will end up mixing \_\_\_\_\_ and putting believers under the law as a rule of life (Rom. 6:14).
- You will \_\_\_\_\_ the unconditional covenantal promises made to ethnic Israel by applying them to the church today.
- You will destroy the unique \_\_\_\_\_ position, orientation, and ministry of the church (Col. 3:1-4).
- You will rob the church of its \_\_\_\_\_ – the imminent return of Christ and the Rapture of the Church. (Titus 2:13; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)

**2. Kingdom Kaos: If you fail to distinguish the beginning and birthday of the church as occurring after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ...**

- You will mix the \_\_\_\_\_ (such as the Sermon on the Mount) with the \_\_\_\_\_, ending up with doctrinal and practical confusion.
- You will fail to distinguish the Gospel of the \_\_\_\_\_ with the Gospel of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- You will confuse the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ with the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ (how one is saved).
- You will take the \_\_\_\_\_ right past the cross and place it on the backs of church-age believers.

**3. Hyper-dispensational Hacking: If in an effort to “rightly divide the Word of truth,” you end up wrongly dividing it by starting the church post-Pentecost ...**

- You will wrongly interpret the \_\_\_\_\_ as being non-Church & not for today (Mt. 28:18-20).
- You will eliminate the practice of \_\_\_\_\_ for believers {HD} & possibly the \_\_\_\_\_ as well {HHD}.
- You will wrongly conclude a \_\_\_\_\_ (early Acts) and a \_\_\_\_\_ (later Acts) when the Bible eliminates such a distinction (Eph. 2:11-18).
- You will wrongly conclude that Peter preached a \_\_\_\_\_ than Paul (Gal.2:7-9; 1:8-9).
- You will reduce the parts of the Bible written to Church Age believers as being only \_\_\_\_\_ (even perhaps only his prison epistles), possibly relegating late written New Testament books such as 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Revelation (A.D. 90-95) to apply to another dispensation.