

>> GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK OFFERS A FREE NON-DENOMINATIONAL BIBLE COURSE. IT'S BASED STRICTLY ON GOD'S WORD AND NOT THE CREEDS OR TRADITIONS OF MEN. WHY NOT CONTACT US FOR LESSON NUMBER ONE? YOU MAY WANT TO ENROLL BY E-MAIL. THE ADDRESS IS INFO@GBNTV.ORG. TO ENROLL BY PHONE, CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 888-805-3390.

>> HELLO, AND WELCOME TO COUNTERPOINT. I'M MIKE HIXSON, AND TODAY B.J. CLARKE AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY WITH YOU ON THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT. WE HOPE YOU'LL STAY TUNED.

>> B.J., SO GOOD TO BE WITH YOU TODAY.

>> YES, SIR. GOOD TO BE WITH YOU.

>> B.J., TODAY WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT JESUS AND THE CHURCH THAT HE BUILT. ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL PORTRAITS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT HAS TO DO WITH THE CHURCH. ISAIAH TALKED ABOUT IN ISAIAH CHAPTER 2 THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD'S HOUSE BEING ESTABLISHED. AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY, THEY REALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE CHURCH. I MEAN, THEY SEE CHURCHES ON DIFFERENT STREETS ALONG THE WAY AS THEY TRAVEL THROUGH THE CITY AND NAVIGATE THEIR WAY AROUND, BUT NOT MANY PEOPLE ARE REALLY THAT FAMILIAR WITH THE CHURCH THAT WE READ ABOUT IN SCRIPTURE. AND SO TO UNDERSTAND FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE CHURCH WAS NOT, AS SOME HAVE THE IDEA, AN AFTERTHOUGHT ON GOD'S PART; BUT RATHER THE CHURCH EXISTS TODAY ACCORDING TO GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. YOU KNOW, THE CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING. A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK OF THE CHURCH AS A BUILDING. BUT THE WORD CHURCH IN OUR ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS COMES FROM A GREEK WORD, EKKLESIA, WHICH IS REALLY FROM TWO GREEK WORDS, EK, KALEO, TO CALL OUT OF. AND SO MOST LITERALLY, THE CHURCH ARE CALLED-OUT PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT, COLOSSIANS 1:12-13. THEY'VE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SAVIOR. AND THAT'S A SYNONYM FOR THE CHURCH USED OFTEN IN SCRIPTURE. YOU MENTIONED ANOTHER SYNONYM, THE LORD'S HOUSE, THE HOUSE OF GOD IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD OF 1 TIMOTHY 3:15. AND SO YES, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CONCEPT TO THINK ABOUT THAT IN THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD, BEFORE HE EVER SAID, LET THERE BE LIGHT, HE HAD ALREADY DECIDED LET THERE BE A CHURCH, A CALLED-OUT PEOPLE THAT WILL BE MY PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD. AND THIS IS A MARVELOUS THING TO CONSIDER. AS YOU STUDY ALL THROUGH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, YOU SEE THE ANTICIPATION OF THE CHURCH. AND I REMEMBER THE DAYS OF THE POLAROID PICTURE, AND I'M SURE YOU MIGHT EVEN REMEMBER A LITTLE BIT OF THAT FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD. A LOT OF PEOPLE TODAY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS, BUT YOU USED TO HAVE TO TAKE A PICTURE AND SPIT IT OUT OF THIS CAMERA, AND THEN IF YOU WATCHED, IT WOULD DEVELOP RIGHT BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES.

>> PRETTY AMAZING.

>> THIS PART COMES INTO FOCUS, NOW THIS PART COMES INTO FOCUS. AND COMPARED TO OUR INSTANTANEOUS DIGITAL SHOTS TODAY, PEOPLE DON'T THINK THAT'S A BIG DEAL. BUT IT REMINDS ME OF READING THE OLD TESTAMENT. IT'S LIKE WATCHING A SLOWLY-DEVELOPING POLAROID OF THE CHURCH COME INTO FOCUS IN VARIOUS PHASES. AND YOU SEE DANIEL CHAPTER 2 ANTICIPATING THE TIME THAT THE CHURCH WOULD COME, IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. YOU SEE

ISAIAH ANTICIPATING THAT IT WOULD COME IN THE LAST DAYS IN JERUSALEM. AND SO THERE ARE CLUES ALL THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT.

>> YEAH. YOU KNOW, YOU TALK ABOUT THAT PORTRAIT THAT'S BEING PAINTED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, AND AS YOU WERE TALKING, I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK ABOUT HOW ISAIAH IDENTIFIES THAT PERIOD OF TIME WHEN THE LORD'S HOUSE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED, AND HE SAID IT, IN THE LAST DAYS. WELL, THERE WERE THREE DISPENSATIONS OF TIME, THERE ARE THREE DISPENSATIONS OF TIME, BEGINNING WITH THE PATRIARCHS, AND THEN THE MOSAIC DISPENSATION; BUT NOW WE LIVE IN THE LATTER DAYS, THE LAST DAYS, WHICH IS THE CHRISTIAN DISPENSATION. AND PETER QUOTES THE GREAT PROPHET IN THE LONG AGO WHO POINTED TO THAT COMING DAY. HE IDENTIFIED, IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS. JESUS SPEAKS IN THESE LAST DAYS. AND SO WE'RE LIVING IN THAT LAST DISPENSATION OF TIME. THEN YOU PINPOINTED THE PLACE. WELL, THE WORD OF THE LORD WOULD GO FORTH FROM JERUSALEM. THESE ARE INDICATORS ABOUT THIS CHURCH. AND YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO GOD DECREED BEFORE HE EVER SAID LET THERE BE LIGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE A CHURCH. WELL, YOU KNOW, IN REVELATION CHAPTER 13 THE BIBLE TALKS ABOUT THE LAMB SLAIN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. TO JUST STEP BACK AND TO REMEMBER, TO REFLECT UPON THE FACT THAT JUST AS JESUS WAS FOREORDAINED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN TO BE THE LAMB WHO WOULD DIE FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD, THE CHURCH WAS IN THE MIND OF GOD.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. AND YOU KNOW THOSE PEOPLE ON PENTECOST, JEWS HAD TRAVELED TO JERUSALEM FROM ALL OVER FOR THE FEAST OF PENTECOST, WHICH WAS A REQUIRED TRIP FOR THEM. AND IT WAS WHILE THEY WERE THERE THAT ACTS 2 DESCRIBES A SOUND FROM HEAVEN AS OF A RUSHING MIGHTY WIND FILLED ALL THE HOUSE WHERE THEY WERE SITTING, AND SUDDENLY THE TWELVE APOSTLES ARE EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SPEAK IN LANGUAGES THAT THEY'VE NEVER STUDIED BEFORE. AND THEY'RE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL OF THE MASSES THAT HAD GATHERED IN JERUSALEM AND PREACH THE GOSPEL. AND IT'S IN THAT GOSPEL SERMON THAT PETER QUOTES JOEL AND SAYS THIS IS THAT.

>> THAT'S IT.

>> AND WHEN THE BIBLE SAYS THIS IS THAT, THAT'S THAT. IT SETTLES IT. THE LAST DAYS, A LOT OF TIMES PEOPLE TODAY, WHEN THEY HEAR LAST DAYS, THEY THINK, OH, YOU MEAN THE TIME RIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON AND THE THOUSAND-YEAR REIGN ON EARTH. NO, WE DON'T. BECAUSE THE BIBLE REFERS TO THE LAST DAYS AS THE LAST AGE OF BIBLE HISTORY, AS YOU NOTED. AND WE'RE IN THAT NOW. WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL LAST. WE DO KNOW THAT WHEN IT'S OVER, THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT ON THIS EARTH FOR THERE TO BE LIVING HERE. AND SO WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO AND LIVE WITH GOD. BUT HERE'S THE BEAUTY OF IT. THE CHURCH INVITATION IN ISAIAH, IT SAYS ALL NATIONS SHALL FLOW UNTO IT. SO IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOUR NATIONALITY IS. YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF THIS HOUSEHOLD.

>> THINK ABOUT THAT, B.J. ISAIAH SAW, FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT, HE SAW A PERIOD IN WHICH THE CHURCH WOULD BE ESTABLISHED; HE SAW THE PLACE, WHICH WAS JERUSALEM; AND HE SAW THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD COMPRISE, ALL NATIONS, WHICH REALLY FITS WITH WHAT PAUL SAID IN EPHESIANS CHAPTER 3, THAT GOD'S DESIGN WAS THAT THE GENTILES MIGHT BE FELLOW HEIRS OF THE SAME BODY, PARTAKERS OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPEL. SO BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES, ACCORDING TO PAUL IN EPHESIANS 2:16, RECONCILED TO GOD IN ONE BODY, THE CHURCH. SO

ISAIAH'S LOOKING DOWN IN THE DISTANT TIME, HE'S SEEING AN AGE IN WHICH GOD'S GOING TO ESTABLISH THIS CHURCH, HE TELLS HIM WHEN HE'S GOING TO DO IT, HE TELLS HIM WHERE HE'S GOING TO DO IT, AND THEN HE IDENTIFIES THE PEOPLE. AND THEN WHEN HE SAID THE WORD OF THE LORD WILL GO FORTH FROM JERUSALEM, DIDN'T LUKE SAY IN QUOTING JESUS, REPENTANCE, REMISSION OF SINS WOULD BE PREACHED IN HIS NAME BEGINNING WHERE? JERUSALEM.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. WHICH BRINGS US TO ANOTHER POINT YOU COULD ADD TO THAT GREAT ALLITERATED OUTLINE. JESUS SHOWS US THE POWER. BECAUSE YOU REMEMBER HE SAYS IN ACTS 1:8, BUT YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER AFTER THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COME UPON YOU. WHY IS THAT SIGNIFICANT? BECAUSE IN MARK 9:1 JESUS TOLD A GROUP OF LIVING PEOPLE, SOME OF YOU STANDING HERE WILL NOT TASTE OF DEATH TILL YOU'VE SEEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD COME WITH POWER. SO WHEN WOULD THE POWER COME? THE POWER WOULD COME WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME UPON THEM. AND IN LUKE 24:49, IT SAYS THAT THIS POWER WOULD INDEED COME FROM ON HIGH. AND SO HERE THIS OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON THE APOSTLES, NOT THE 120. THE APOSTLES ARE THE NEAREST ANTECEDENT TO ACTS 2:1. AND SO WE KNOW THE TWELVE APOSTLES RECEIVED THIS DIRECT OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. IT EQUIPS THEM TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE THE WORD OF GOD. AND THIS BRINGS YOU TO DAVID'S TOMB, A PROPHECY THAT WAS MADE. PETER SAYS, MEN AND BRETHREN, LET ME FREELY SPEAK UNTO YOU OF THE PATRIARCH DAVID. HE'S DEAD AND BURIED. WAS THAT BREAKING NEWS TO THOSE FOLKS?

>> NO.

>> A THOUSAND YEARS HAD GONE BY SINCE HE DIED, SO I THINK THEY KNEW HE WAS DEAD AND BURIED. WHY BRING IT UP? BECAUSE 2 SAMUEL 7 SAYS, DAVID, WHEN YOU'RE DEAD AND BURIED, ONE OF YOUR DESCENDANTS IS GOING TO BUILD A HOUSE, ESTABLISH A KINGDOM. AND SURE ENOUGH, THE HOUSE OF GOD IS THE CHURCH. WHAT DO YOU READ IN ACTS 2:47? THE LORD WAS ADDING PEOPLE TO THE CHURCH.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> AND WHAT DO YOU READ IN THE KINGDOM CONCEPT? YOU READ THAT THE KINGDOM WAS ESTABLISHED BECAUSE A KINGDOM HAS A KING. AND WHO IS OUR CHRIST OUR CHRISTOS, OUR ANOINTED ONE WHO IS REIGNING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD? ACCORDING TO ACTS 2:36 JESUS CHRIST IS THAT REIGNING ONE.

>> YEAH. YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT. IN ACTS CHAPTER 2, THE PICTURE THAT PETER PAINTS ON THAT OCCASION IS THE DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION, AND CORONATION OF CHRIST.

>> THERE YOU GO.

>> HE NOW OCCUPIES A THRONE. IT'S NOT A LITERAL THRONE; BUT RATHER HE'S SITTING UPON THE THRONE OF DAVID, WHICH AS YOU ALLUDED TO, NATHAN THE PROPHET FORETOLD OF THAT IN 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 7, VERSE 12 BEGINNING. AND THEN YOU REMEMBER WHEN THE ANGEL ANNOUNCED TO MARY THAT SHE WOULD HAVE A SON, THAT THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WOULD OVERSHADOW HER. HE SAID, HE SHALL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER. OF HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO END.

>> RIGHT. AND IT'S INTERESTING, ISAIAH TALKS ABOUT THE HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB. CALLS IT THAT. AND SURE ENOUGH, IN LUKE 1:31-32, THAT ANGEL IS TELLING MARY THAT JESUS IS GOING TO OCCUPY THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID, AND INDEED THE HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB WILL BE ESTABLISHED. AND IT WAS. AND WE CAN BE A PART OF IT TODAY. AND WHAT A BLESSING THAT IS.

>> IF YOU GO BACK AGAIN TO ISAIAH CHAPTER 2, WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT HOW THE WORD OF THE LORD WOULD GO FORTH FROM JERUSALEM, ALL RIGHT, ON PENTECOST DAY - AND YOU ALLUDED TO ACTS CHAPTER 1, AND JESUS TALKED ABOUT HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD COME UPON THEM. HE SAID, AS YOU HAVE HEARD FROM ME. AND YOU REMEMBER HE SAID, JOHN BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW.

>> RIGHT.

>> AND THEN THEY WANTED TO KNOW, LORD, ARE YOU GOING TO RESTORE THE KINGDOM? ARE YOU GOING TO RESTORE THE KINGDOM TO ISRAEL? HE SAID, IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW THE TIMES NOR SEASONS THE FATHER HAS PUT IN HIS OWN AUTHORITY; BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER.

>> RIGHT.

>> SO YOU WENT TO ACTS CHAPTER 2. DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME UPON THEM? YES. THEY HEARD THOSE MEN SPEAKING IN TONGUES PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN TO THEM. SO WHAT ARE THEY DOING? THEY'RE PREACHING THE WORD OF THE LORD: DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST. THOSE PEOPLE ARE PRICKED, CUT TO THE HEART. ALL RIGHT. DID GOD LEGISLATE THE TERMS OF ADMISSION INTO HIS HOUSE?

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> NO QUESTION.

>> AND YOU KNOW, IT'S INTERESTING. YOU MENTIONED THE WORD OF THE LORD WOULD GO FORTH FROM JERUSALEM. THAT'S WHERE IT WOULD START. ACTS 1:8 WHICH YOU WERE ALLUDING TO EARLIER SAYS, AND YOU'LL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME IN JERUSALEM.

>> JUDEA.

>> BUT HE DOESN'T STOP THERE. IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND THEN TO THE -

>> UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH.

>> UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH. HERE WE ARE IN THIS CITY IN THIS STATE, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM WHERE ALL OF THAT STARTED, AND YOU AND I ARE TALKING ABOUT THAT EVENT A COUPLE OF THOUSAND YEARS AFTER IT HAPPENED.

>> AMAZING.

>> AND THE CHURCH IS STRONG AND IT'S IN EXISTENCE, AND GOD DID EXACTLY WHAT HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO DO. WHERE'S BABYLON TODAY?

>> YEAH.

>> WAIT A MINUTE. WHERE'S MEDO-PERSIA? ALEXANDER THE GREAT WAS A GREAT MILITARY MAN, BUT WHERE IS HE NOW? WHERE IS GREECE, HIS KINGDOM WORLD POWER? WHERE'S ROME AND ITS WORLD POWER? THEY'RE ALL IN THE DUST BIN OF HISTORY. THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN KINGS IS WHEN GOD SET UP A KINGDOM THAT WOULD NEVER BE DESTROYED, DANIEL 2:44, AND THAT KINGDOM STILL EXISTS TODAY. IT ALWAYS WILL. YOU CAN'T POINT NUCLEAR BOMBS AT IT, BECAUSE IT'S NOT MATERIAL IN NATURE.

>> NOT AT ALL. MATTER OF FACT, THE KINGDOM WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IS SPIRITUAL IN NATURE. AND B.J., YOU JUST TRIGGERED A THOUGHT IN MY MIND, AND THAT IS AS PEOPLE DRIVE AROUND IN A CITY, AND LITERALLY THEY SEE CHURCHES ON EVERY STREET CORNER. AND I GET IT. PEOPLE, THEY LOOK AROUND, THEY SEE HERE'S A CHURCH WEARING THIS NAME, THEY PRACTICE THESE DOCTRINAL THINGS, AND THEN HERE'S ANOTHER CHURCH, AND THEY'RE PRACTICING VARIOUS DOCTRINAL THINGS. AND SO THE CONCLUSION IS, WELL, HOW DO I KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT? IS THERE SOME WAY THAT I COULD IDENTIFY THE CHURCH THAT ISAIAH TALKED ABOUT IN ISAIAH CHAPTER 2, THAT DANIEL TALKED ABOUT IN DANIEL CHAPTER 2? WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SIMPLY IDENTIFY THE CHURCH THAT I READ ABOUT IN SCRIPTURE? THE ANSWER HAS TO BE YES.

>> OTHERWISE, WHY HAVE A GPS TO TELL US HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN IF IT STILL DOESN'T WORK? I GOT TO THINKING RIGHT AS YOU WERE SAYING THAT, WHAT IF I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING THE APOSTLE PAUL AND THE APOSTLE PETER BOTH GET UP WITH ME ON A SUNDAY MORNING AND HEAD OUT TO VARIOUS CHURCHES IN MY COMMUNITY AND TO SIT THERE WITH THEM? IF THEY'RE SITTING THERE AND THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE THE PLAN OF SALVATION THAT'S PREACHED AND THE PATTERN OF WORSHIP THAT'S BEING FOLLOWED AND THE GOSPEL SERMON AS BEING REALLY FROM THE WORD OF GOD AND THE DESIGNATIONS BY WHICH THOSE PEOPLE ARE CALLING THEMSELVES, IF PAUL AND PETER WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THOSE PLACES AS THE CHURCH THEY KNEW ABOUT, THEN I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEM. YOU SAY, WELL, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE PAUL AND PETER WITH YOU TO SERVICES. OH, YES, I CAN IN THE SENSE THAT I CAN TAKE THEIR INSPIRED WORDS AND I CAN CHECK OUT THE PREACHER AND SAY, ARE YOU TELLING THE SAME PLAN OF SALVATION THAT THE FOLKS WERE TOLD IN ACTS CHAPTER 2? WHY ARE YOU TELLING PEOPLE TO SAY A SINNER'S PRAYER? PETER DIDN'T TELL PEOPLE TO SAY A SINNER'S PRAYER. WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT? WHY ARE YOU-ALL WORSHIPING IN THIS WAY WHEN I SEE THEM DOING IT DIFFERENT? WELL, WHY DON'T YOU-ALL HAVE THE LORD'S SUPPER HERE TODAY? IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK. THE PEOPLE IN ACTS 20:7, THEY HAD THE LORD'S SUPPER ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, AND EVERY WEEK HAS A FIRST DAY. AND SO I CAN USE THE WRITINGS OF THE INSPIRED APOSTLES, TAKE IT TO CHURCH WITH ME, AND FIGURE OUT, IS THIS THE CHURCH OF THE LORD OR NOT.

>> GREAT THOUGHT. YOU KNOW, B.J., IF YOU LOOK AT ACTS CHAPTER 2, DIDN'T LUKE SAY CONCERNING THE EARLY CHURCH MEMBERS, AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE? WHAT YOU SAID IS TRUE. CAN I TAKE PETER AND PAUL WITH ME? YES, I CAN. HOW SO? BY THIS BOOK RIGHT HERE. AND PETER SAID, IF ANY MAN SPEAK, LET HIM SPEAK AS THE ORACLES OF GOD. PAUL SAID, PROVE ALL THINGS, TEST ALL THINGS, HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD. SO LET ME JUST ASK THIS QUESTION, B.J. IS THERE A STANDARD BY WHICH WE CAN ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT WE'VE FOUND THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE?

>> ABSOLUTELY. IT'S THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD. AND IT WILL NEVER, EVER NEED TO BE UPDATED. YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLUG A USB CABLE INTO A COMPUTER AND DOWNLOAD THE LATEST VERSION OF IT. YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO GO ONLINE AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE UPDATED VERSION OF IT. THE SAME DIRECTIONS THOSE FOLKS WERE GIVEN TO GET TO HEAVEN IS THE SAME NARROW WAY THAT WE TRAVEL TODAY. IT'S THE NARROW WAY THAT LEADS TO LIFE. AND I CAN SAY, WAIT, THIS CHURCH, IN ACTS 18, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHURCH AT CORINTH. MANY OF THE CORINTHIANS, HEARING, BELIEVED AND WERE BAPTIZED. OKAY. HOW DO CHURCHES GET STARTED TODAY? HEARING THE GOSPEL, BELIEVING THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL, AND PARTICULARLY THAT ABOUT JESUS CHRIST AND WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE CAME TO DO, AND TO BE BAPTIZED, BECAUSE HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED. YOU KNOW, ITS INTERESTING. ACTS 18:8 IS MARK 16:15-16 ON DISPLAY.

>> SURE IS.

>> BECAUSE MARK 16:15, GO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE. MANY OF THE CORINTHIANS, HEARING. THEY HEARD. HE THAT BELIEVETH. BELIEVED. AND IS BAPTIZED. AND WERE BAPTIZED. SHALL BE SAVED. AND THAT'S HOW THE CORINTHIANS WERE SAVED. IS IT ANY DIFFERENT TODAY, MIKE? SHOULD IT BE ANY DIFFERENT TODAY?

>> NO, NO. MATTER OF FACT, I THINK IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, WE HAVE ACCEPTED WHAT I WOULD CALL SUB-STANDARD CHRISTIANITY.

>> YEAH.

>> I WAS WATCHING THE NEWS THIS WEEK, AND THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT GO ON IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD THAT PEOPLE ACCEPT AS, QUOTE, UNQUOTE, TRUTH WHEN IN REALITY, AFTER FURTHER INVESTIGATION, THERE'S NO TRUTH IN IT. I SAW WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, THEY WERE SAID TO BE BREAKING GROUND BY THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CARDINAL IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. WELL, YOU KNOW, I'VE READ THE NEW TESTAMENT. I HAVE YET TO READ OF A CARDINAL ANYWHERE IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE LORD'S CHURCH. SO WHY SHOULD I ACCEPT THAT? WHEN I'M TOLD THAT WHAT WE NEED IS A VICAR OF CHRIST ON EARTH SO THAT WE'LL HAVE SOME TYPE OF EARTHLY HEAD, AND YET I DON'T READ OF THAT IN MY NEW TESTAMENT, THEN SHOULD THAT CAUSE ME TO STEP BACK AND SAY WAIT A MINUTE? WHEN PETER PREACHED ON PENTECOST DAY, AND THEN I HEAR PEOPLE SAYING OKAY, YOU WANT TO BE, QUOTE, UNQUOTE, A CHILD OF GOD, HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO, ACCEPT THE LORD JESUS INTO YOUR HEART, RECITE THIS PRAYER, AND YOU'LL BECOME ONE OF HIS CHILDREN. BUT I DON'T HEAR PETER SAYING THAT.

>> NO.

>> SO WHY SHOULD I ACCEPT SOMETHING THAT IS SUB-STANDARD? BECAUSE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A STANDARD. AND PAUL SAID WE'RE TO WALK BY THIS RULE. SO HOW DO WE GET PEOPLE TO AWAKEN TO THE REALITY OF DIVINE TRUTH?

>> YOU MENTIONED BREAKING GROUND. THERE ARE SOME FOLKS WHO ARE BREAKING GROUND WHERE THEY SHOULDN'T BE BREAKING IT AND PLANTING INTO THAT GROUND WHAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE PLANTING INTO IT. THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM IS THE WORD OF GOD ACCORDING TO LUKE 8:11. WHEN THAT WORD, THAT SEED IS PLANTED INTO THE SOIL OF THE HEARTS OF MEN AND WOMEN, IT'S SUPPOSED TO PRODUCE,

IT WILL PRODUCE, GUARANTEED TO PRODUCE, IF IT'S THE SAME SEED, IT'S GOING TO PRODUCE THE SAME THING TODAY IT WOULD HAVE PRODUCED IF IT HAD BEEN PLANTED 2,000 YEARS AGO. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS BEFORE. ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOUND AN ANCIENT WHEAT SEED IN A PHARAOH'S TOMB. BECAUSE OF THE CONDITIONS, THEY THOUGHT IT STILL HAD THE GERM OF LIFE IN IT. ALL RIGHT, IF IT'S WHEAT SEED IN PHARAOH'S DAY, WHAT SEED IS IT TODAY?

>> NOT GOING TO BE CORN SEED.

>> AND IF PHARAOH HAD PLANTED IT BACK THEN, WHAT WOULD IT HAVE PRODUCED? WHEAT. IF IT IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING AND GERMINATING TODAY, WHAT CROP WILL COME FORTH FROM THAT SEED? WHEAT. BECAUSE THE PASSAGE OF TIME DOESN'T CHANGE THE NATURE OF THE SEED. IF THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM IS THE WORD OF GOD, AND IT WAS IN THE FIRST CENTURY, 2,000 YEARS IN PASSING OF TIME HAS NOT CHANGED THE NATURE OF THE SEED. UNFORTUNATELY, WE'VE GOT PEOPLE WHO'VE ARTIFICIALLY INJECTED INTO GOD'S SEED THAT WHICH IS MAN-MADE AND PRODUCED, AND THEY'VE CREATED A HYBRID THAT IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS A MIXTURE OF THE WORD OF GOD WITH THE DOCTRINES AND COMMANDMENTS OF MEN. AND ONCE YOU MAKE THAT MIXTURE, YOU'VE POLLUTED IT BEYOND REPAIR. SO GET RID OF THAT BATCH AND GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SOURCE AND JUST DRINK FROM THE ORIGINAL CLEAR FOUNTAIN OF TRUTH THAT YOU FIND IN THE WORD OF GOD.

>> THAT'S IT. AND YOU KNOW, B.J., WHAT WE'RE PLEADING PEOPLE TO DO IS TO LAY ASIDE THE DOCTRINES, COMMANDMENTS OF MEN AND SIMPLY FOLLOW THE NEW TESTAMENT. BECAUSE THE NEW TESTAMENT WILL ONLY MAKE A CHRISTIAN. NO HYBRID CHRISTIAN, AS YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO. AND YOU LOOK AT WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES. THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S JUST ONE BODY, AND THE BODY IS THE CHURCH, COLOSSIANS 1:18. THERE'S JUST ONE HEAD. HE'S THE HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH, COLOSSIANS 1:18. ALL RIGHT. SO IF THERE'S ONE HEAD AND ONE BODY, WHY THEN WOULD I ACCEPT A RELIGION THAT SAYS THERE ARE TWO HEADS AND ONE BODY?

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> WHY WOULD I ACCEPT A RELIGION THAT WOULD SAY YOU KNOW WHAT? THERE ARE MULTIPLE BODIES OUT HERE. WE'RE ALL MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION. WE'RE JUST DIFFERING BODIES, BUT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE ONE HEAD. WELL, THE BIBLE DOESN'T TEACH THAT. THE BIBLE SAYS THERE IS ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, EVEN AS YOU ARE CALLED IN ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING. OKAY, WAIT A MINUTE. THERE'S ONE BODY, ONE HEAD. RIGHT. I CAN READ ABOUT THAT IN MY NEW TESTAMENT. THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT. SO WHY WOULD I ACCEPT SOMETHING OTHER THAN DIVINE TRUTH? AND I THINK WE'VE BEEN SOLD A BILL OF GOODS THAT SAYS IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER. IT DOES MATTER.

>> WHAT COULD BE CLEARER AND MORE AUTHORITATIVE THAN THE ACTUAL WORD OF GOD? IS SOMEONE GOING TO SHOW ME THEIR CREED? YOU AND I HAVE TALKED ABOUT THIS I KNOW MANY TIMES OVER THE YEARS. IF A MAN-MADE, WRITTEN CREED HAS MORE IN IT THAN THE BIBLE HAS IN IT, WELL, THEN IT'S GOT TOO MUCH. IF IT'S GOT LESS IN IT THAN THE BIBLE HAS IN IT, IT'S GOT TOO LITTLE. IF IT'S GOT THE SAME THING IN IT THAT THE BIBLE HAS IN IT, JUST THROW IT AWAY AND USE THE BIBLE AND GO BY IT, BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT'S GOING TO JUDGE US IN THE LAST DAY. THIS IS THE SEED THAT WE NEED TO BE PLANTING INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN AND WOMEN. THE DIVISION THAT EXISTS IN THE

RELIGIOUS WORLD TODAY IS NOT BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE SAME BOOK AS THEY SHOULD. THEY MIGHT CLAIM TO. BUT I REMEMBER SAUL CLAIMED TO HAVE OBEYED THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD WHEN SAMUEL CONFRONTED HIM ABOUT NOT DESTROYING ALL OF THE SHEEP AND THE OXEN THAT GOD TOLD HIM TO UTTERLY DESTROY, AND YET SAUL HAD THE AUDACITY TO SAY I HAVE DONE WHAT GOD SAYS. THERE ARE PEOPLE TODAY WHO WILL CLAIM THEY'VE DONE WHAT GOD SAID EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE DONE THE VERY OPPOSITE OF WHAT HE SAID.

>> YOU KNOW, B.J., I HEARD A STATEMENT, HAD A STATEMENT MADE A MONTH OR TWO AGO, AND WHEN I SAY THIS, I HOPE AND PRAY THAT PEOPLE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME. I'M NOT TRYING TO BE DISRESPECTFUL TO ANYBODY. BUT SHE SAID, I'M A BAPTIST, BUT I'M A CHRISTIAN. WELL, YOU CAN'T BE BOTH. YOU CAN BE A BAPTIST OR YOU CAN BE A CHRISTIAN, BUT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A BAPTIST CHRISTIAN. AND WE'VE SAID THIS ON THIS PROGRAM BEFORE. AND LOOK, WE'RE NOT HERE TO HURT PEOPLE. WE'RE HERE TO HELP PEOPLE. IF YOU WENT BACK TO PENTECOST DAY AND YOU PULLED SOMEBODY TO THE SIDE AND SAID, SIR, I SAW YOU JUST GOT BAPTIZED. WHAT CHURCH DO YOU BELONG TO? THEY WOULDN'T HAVE RATTLED OFF ALL THE MODERN-DAY PROTESTANT CHURCHES THAT WE'RE SO FAMILIAR WITH TODAY. THE PERSON BEING ASKED THE QUESTION WOULD HAVE SAID, WELL, I'M A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH. WELL, WHAT CHURCH? THE CHURCH. WELL, WHAT CHURCH? THE CHURCH OF GOD, THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, THE KINGDOM OF GOD. BUT WE HAVE ACCEPTED -

>> OH, WE HAVE.

>> SOMETHING OTHER THAN DIVINE TRUTH.

>> YEAH. WE ASSUME THAT WHAT'S NORMAL TO US WOULD HAVE BEEN NORMAL TO THEM.

>> IT'S NOT.

>> AND IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NORMAL TO THEM. WE TALK ABOUT THIS CHURCH, THAT CHURCH, ANOTHER CHURCH, AND WE ALL GET THAT, BECAUSE WE'VE SEEN THOSE CHURCH BUILDINGS WITH THOSE SIGNS ALL AROUND US. WE GO BACK TO THE DAY OF PENTECOST AND START MENTIONING THESE NAMES OF THESE CHURCHES -

>> WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

>> TO THOSE FOLKS, AND THEY'RE LIKE, I'M SORRY, I'M NOT TRACKING WITH YOU. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. THAT SHOULD TELL US SOMETHING.

>> ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO BACK TO ISAIAH AGAIN. ISAIAH PINPOINTED THE PERIOD, THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE. ALL RIGHT. ANY CHURCH THAT BEGAN OUTSIDE OF JERUSALEM CAN'T BE THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.

>> NO.

>> ANY CHURCH THAT OWES ITS ORIGIN, ANY CHURCH, TO A TIME OTHER THAN PENTECOST, JERUSALEM, AD 30-33, CAN'T BE THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH. IF IT WAS FOUNDED BEFORE PENTECOST, TOO OLD. AFTER, TOO YOUNG.

>> YEP.

>> HOW DO WE MAKE THOSE CONCLUSIONS? BASED UPON THE WORD OF GOD. THERE ARE SIMPLE THINGS THAT YOU CAN GO THROUGH, A CHECKLIST, PER SE; AND IF IT DOESN'T MEET THE CRITERIA, IT'S NOT THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.

>> IF WE DO WHAT THEY DID, WE'LL BE WHAT THEY WERE.

>> THAT'S IT.

>> WHAT WERE THEY? JUST CHRISTIANS. WHAT HYPHENATION OF CHRISTIAN? NO, THEY WEREN'T THIS KIND OF CHRISTIAN, THAT KIND OF CHRISTIAN OR ANOTHER. I'D LOVINGLY ASK OUR VIEWERS, CAN YOU SHOW US, CAN YOU TAKE THE WORD OF GOD, THE NEW TESTAMENT AND SHOW US A HYPHENATED BRAND OF CHRISTIAN?

>> CAN'T DO IT.

>> SOMEONE BACK IN THE FIRST CENTURY THAT CALLED THEMSELVES THIS KIND OF CHRISTIAN OR THAT KIND OF CHRISTIAN? AND USING DENOMINATIONAL NAMES TODAY, THOSE DENOMINATIONAL NAMES WERE NOT KNOWN TO THEM BECAUSE THOSE DENOMINATIONS DID NOT EXIST THEN.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> THAT SHOULD BE A REAL WAKE-UP CALL TO US TO SAY OKAY, WAIT A MINUTE. BUT A CHURCH DID EXIST. YES. OKAY, THEN WHY DON'T I JUST BE A MEMBER OF THAT CHURCH?

>> THAT'S IT. THAT'S ALL WE'RE ASKING PEOPLE TO DO. WE'RE PLEADING FOR PEOPLE TO GO BACK TO NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY, TO BE A PART OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH AND THE APOSTATE CHURCH.

>> THAT'S TRUE.

>> WE WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST THAT YOU READ ABOUT IN SCRIPTURE. AND SO B.J., THERE ARE THOSE IDENTIFYING MARKS THAT WILL HELP US IDENTIFY THE CHURCH AND TO BE A PART OF THAT. SO WHAT WOULD SOMEBODY NEED TO DO TO SIMPLY BE A CHRISTIAN? NOT A HYPHENATED CHRISTIAN, BUT SIMPLY A CHILD OF THE LIVING GOD?

>> RIGHT. GOOD NEWS. IF YOU'RE BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND THE SPIRIT, YOU'RE ADDED TO THE FAMILY OF GOD, THE ONLY ONE THAT HE HAS. AND THE WAY TO BE BORN OF WATER AND THE SPIRIT IS TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT LIKE THE EUNUCH DID THROUGH PHILIP THE PREACHER IN ACTS 8. AND AFTER HEARING THE MESSAGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH PHILIP, WHO PREACHED JESUS UNTO HIM, WATER COMES INTO PLAY WHEN HE SAYS, SEE, HERE IS WATER. WHAT DOETH HINDER ME TO BE BAPTIZED? AND HE SAYS, IF YOU BELIEVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART, YOU MAY. YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE AND BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED, MARK 16:16. HE SAID HE DID. THEY BAPTIZED HIM, HE WENT ON HIS WAY REJOICING BECAUSE HE'S NOW SAVED. AND THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS INTERESTING, BECAUSE THE EUNUCH DOES NOT SAY, HEY, WOULD YOU LEAD ME IN THAT PRAYER YOU TALKED ABOUT A MOMENT AGO? HE SAID, I WANT TO BE BAPTIZED. WHY DON'T WE DO THE SAME THING TODAY?

>> AMEN. AMEN. B.J., AS ALWAYS, SO GOOD TO BE WITH YOU, AND THANK YOU FOR ALL THE GOOD STUFF YOU SHARED TODAY.

>> IT'S A BLESSING TO HEAR FROM YOU, TOO, BROTHER.

>> AND THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR PROGRAM. WE APPRECIATE SO MUCH YOU WATCHING THIS PROGRAM. HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK HERE AGAIN NEXT WEEK. UNTIL THEN, GOD BLESS YOU.

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