

# IS THERE A TRUE CHURCH ORGANIZATION?

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## IS THERE A TRUE CHURCH ORGANIZATION?

To the above we certainly say yes. There is also a true church. As to this organization and church man has had nothing whatever to do in shaping it in any way. It is not of man's wisdom or planning. All men has ever had to do with it was to accept it as it was made by the Lord himself. This church is perfectly organized even to detail governing the actions of all its members. Its appointed seasons of worship are all appointed. The ministry with all other gifts needed in its government and service is all provided for. The mind that guides this organization and service is divine. It needs no constitution, or by-laws, that are not given in the Bible. It has no committees to nominate its officers or plan for its finances. The same laws governing each member is today the same as governed Adam and Eve. It has but one head and that is Christ. Every person who accepts the headship of any other organization "sits in the temple of God, showing himself he is God," regardless of the name which designates his office. Let it be Pope, President, Chairman, or Chief Councillor, it matters not. Each one places himself as head in Christ's stead.

### The Name of the True Church.

It is called "the Church of the Firstborn." It is called "The Church." It is called "the Church of God," and so on. In its divided congregational localities, these are called the churches, whether it is in a house or synagogue as they meet for service. All who apply these names to a man-made organization are usurpers and frauds.

### How Each Must Become a Member of the Church.

This is done, first, by true "repentance towards God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." On conditions of this compliance each one "is made a new creature in Christ Jesus," unto perfect obedience in all the requirements of God. We enter this church by the new birth, by being born again, through the word and the power of the Holy Spirit. On compliance to this requirement

our names are written in heaven, in the Lamb's Book of Life. Thus we see thus far as stated, "God adds to the church such as shall be saved." Man cannot add one single member to the church. God does that. Neither can man take any out of the church.

Christ is the head of the church and we are all members of his body. Hence as the head directs each member of the body so each member of the church is directed by Christ individually into all truth. "If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God." If his word abides in you and you abide in him, this is the condition of fellowship, both with Christ and the Father, as well as with all saints. All sectarian unity and fellowship is a deception.

True fellowship is brought about by the word and not by man's specifications of faith. If the same word abides in me that abides with the Father and the Son that gives me perfect fellowship with them. Then if my brethren have the same word abiding in them then the union is complete. This is unity of the church and nothing else is unity.

### The Gifts in the Church.

And "God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly, teachers; after that miracles, gifts of healing, helps, governments, and diversity of tongues, pastors, evangelists." 1 Cor. 12: 28; Eph. 4:13.

Note, it is God who sets these gifts of the spirit in the church, not man. Therefore in the true church it is utterly impossible for man to prepare by election, education, or employing them in any way to act in any of the capacities mentioned. These gifts are all by divine appointment by him who knows the hearts of all men. Any effort to fill these positions by a committee, or in any other way is but to show our ignorance. The result of all such is now plainly to be seen. The choosing of these men by God in all the past is plainly written, so no mistake need be made. They have been called from various walks in life and all taught by God, not men. Any worker coming from any other source is but a hireling and a poor representative. So keep hands off.

**The Directing of these Men and Workers is all from God.**

Any one who at all knows the Scriptures knows that in all cases God alone sent his servants where they should go, and do the work he had for them to perform. This we need not argue for a moment.

### **Overseers of the Flock.**

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over the which the **Holy Ghost** hath made thee overseers.” Acts 20:20. Man has no right to appoint any one to oversee the flock. That must come from the **Holy Ghost**. Thus far we see that Christ is the head of the church. The membership constitute the body and members in particular. All are directed by the head. That is also represented by Christ being the vine and each member the branch. All drawing nourishment from the vine direct and not through a system of officials.

First, each member is connected individually and are held responsible individually. Second, Christ adds to his church such as shall be saved. Third, the conditions of membership is to be born again and made a new creature in Christ. Fourth, their names are written in heaven, not on earth. Fifth, no one can take them out of that church but Christ. Sixth, all gifts and official positions in the church are set in the church by Christ. Seventh, all instructions as to duty and where to go are from the head of the church. Eighth, any person assuming Christ's position in the directing of men, the calling of workers, and management of men, sits in the place of Christ, showing himself that he is Christ. Thus far it is perfectly easy and plain to see the difference between Christ's church and a thing made by man, and named by man. Note, while the true church is called “The Church of God,” “The Disciples,” “The Church,” and “The Churches.” The calling of these things made by man by those names does not make them so, any more than to call a black baby white. It is not by the name only they should be distinguished. It is the colors in their ensign, and character, that determines what they are. Those who boast of the name they call themselves only show their ignorance and shame, trying to palm off something for the genuine when it is but a false thing made

of man, bearing man's stamp on it and not the divine.

### **By Their Fruits Shall You Know Them.**

The true membership and the true church are known by all men who know the Bible. The true follow their discipline closely. Also certain lessons are to be taught at certain seasons. Among these our teaching of the law of Moses brings out as follows: First, family devotions, each morning and evening there was a lamb to be slain as a burnt offering and also fire was to be taken from the golden altar and placed in the censor which burned the incense as a memorial to God. This taught morning and evening prayers by all members of the true church. All faithful members will obey God in this for it is the spiritual life of the member. Some prayed three times a day. No member of the true church will wish to avoid the gift of prayer, both in secret and public, that is a duty we owe to ourselves and to God.

### **Sabbath Worship.**

By the offering on the Sabbath day of two extra lambs, making four in all on the Sabbath, this taught the importance of meeting for worship on that day. We are admonished "not to neglect the assembling of ourselves together," and "the much more as we see the day of the return of the Lord approaching."

It was Christ's custom to meet on the Sabbath for worship. This duty all true members will do when possible, who belong to the true church. The next appointed season to observe is the new moon or monthly appointment as already cited in our comments on the law of Moses. This will be another duty which each member will perform. The next is the Passover. This was appointed to be observed on the fourteenth day of the first month. The fifteenth day was the feast of unleaven bread and the sixteenth day the offering of the wave sheaf. These will all be observed at the set time and the lesson in each of them will be taught on these set seasons of worship by all true teachers, and profited by, by all true members in the true church. They will not be observed at any time but the time set by the

head of the church, which is Christ, as he appointed in his word.

### **The Pentecost.**

Fifty days following the resurrection of Christ and for fifteen hundred years prior to that event the true church observed this set season of worship, also we read that Paul and the disciples observed it long after the resurrection. It will be observed as appointed by all members of the true church. Some of the false organizations observe the communion of the Passover quarterly, and some even weekly. The pentecost is not observed by any of them. Thus the contrast is easy to see. The next is the day of atonement, appointed by the head of the true church, and also the blowing of trumpets. The latter to take place on the first day of the seventh month. The first to take place on the tenth day of the seventh month. The observance of these and the lessons taught by them are entirely lost by the false churches, while the true members of the true church will observe them both.

The feast of tabernacles and the feast of ingatherings to be held for eight days beginning on the fifteenth day of this seventh month. Both the lesson taught by it and the time of its observance is lost by the false churches, while the true church will be found observing it.

### **The Support of the Gospel.**

This is all provided for in the discipline of the true church, as we have cited in our teaching on the law of Moses; by the tithes and offerings definitely and positively given. The false churches have their own way of raising the finances for their hireling service. This will be one of the things whereby the true membership will do as the Lord requires, in this the true may be known from the false. If any one who claims a membership in the true church and does not do as the discipline of that church requires you may know their membership is to be questioned.

### **Music; Songs of Zion.**

Singing is one of the important service of the true

church, so God has not left that to man to write the thought and sentiment to be sung. The Bible is complete. As we are to sing with the spirit and the understanding also. The Lord has given us the Psalms which are inspired free from all error, each sentence teaching some truth. This production of the Holy Ghost is not to be compared with those of man's production. They are as much higher as heaven is than earth. So we need not bother with fixing a denominational hymn book, we already have it, it never grows old. There is more in the first Psalm than in all man-made books. So the true church has that all provided for them.

### **The Proper Language.**

This is the language of Canaan says the prophet which the Remnant will speak; not the Hebrew, but the Bible language as translated in our language. The Friends Church saw this truth and practiced it in their early history.

### **The Colors or Ensign of Israel.**

The time is here for that ensign to be lifted up. We hope these colors will be adopted by the twelve tribes now scattered abroad. See Sign of Son of Man in "The Story of Jew."

### **Now as to Organization.**

Some say they do not believe in church organization. To this we cannot agree. God is a God of order and system and every thing he does is systematic. His church is in perfect harmony. Confusion belongs to the others and not to the true. Now we ask the question: it is this: If the children of God do as the Lord requires in all things, are they organized? We say most thoroughly. But God is the organizer, not man. God adds to the church. God places the rulers in the church by the Holy Ghost. God sets the different gifts of the spirit in the church. God directs these laborers where they are to go. God provides for their support from those for whom they labor. God converts the heart of each member. Thus God has provided a perfect discipline for seasons of worship and the lesson to be taught during those seasons. He sends his own missionaries. In brief tell us some-

thing of any importance he has overlooked for the promulgation of the gospel? There is nothing.

The first thing to learn is that all worship to God is a voluntary service on the part of each individual. There is no law in the Bible that forces man to obey God in spiritual things. This is positively stated thus: "He shall offer it of his own voluntary will." Lev. 1:3. In civil things the laws of penalties are enforced for disobedience. But spiritual service must be a free will service. So any organization that is compulsory is not God's organization. God is a God of order, not of confusion, hence He has given regulations for the government of duty in spiritual things for all such as enter into it from a point of free will service. Leaving it to every individual whether they wish to accept such service or not.

Note well the above principles on the question of organization. God plainly says, "Ye shall not do after the ordinances of the Egyptians or Canaanites, but ye shall do my judgments and keep my ordinances." Lev. 18:3, 4. So in the study of church organization, the only question to settle is whether your organization is of God or men. The only way to determine that, is to take the Lord's organization and see if we are in harmony with it. We have just noticed that our various seasons of worship are all appointed by God. The themes of each season for us to consider are all plainly told. The length of time for each session is definitely set. The whole story of the Gospel from the days of Eve and Adam's transgression till the close of time is taught during those seasons of worship.

We have learned whom God has appointed to conduct the service—men of His own appointment and selection. Every detail is given on that point. It is further shown that God sets in the church the various gifts necessary for every department of service. Eph. 4. Note. It is God who sets them in; not man. It is God who adds to the church. Acts 2. Not man. God magnified Joshua before the people. Not man. God called Moses. Not man. It was Moses as an instrument of God that led Israel out of Egypt, not a committee or any one but Moses. It was God that called John as the

forerunner of Christ. It was God that sent Paul and Peter to the Gentiles to preach to them the Gospel. It was God who makes an Apostle, Elder, Deacon, Minister, or Evangelist. The true church has but one head and that is Christ. Each individual constitutes a member of His body. He is the vine, each individual is a branch of that vine. Thus there is but one church to which every child of God belongs and that is the "church of the first-born" whose names are written in heaven. To this church no man can add to nor take from. No man can write any one's name in heaven, nor take it out. In this church there is but one spirit from which every gift receives its power. That gift of the spirit no man can neither give or take from us. God who knows each individual heart bestows it as it seemeth to Him good. So as we study this church, which is the only one true church, we ask the question, Why not every child of God belong to it, and it only? Is it not sufficient? Is not Christ capable to build on this rock? Was it not this church which Christ said He would build and the gates of hell (the grave) should not prevail against it? This Church has been in progress of building since the foundation of the world. Christ will complete it when the last member is added to it. Any one at all who is acquainted with the Bible ought to be able to distinguish this church from any counterfeit. They ought to be able to distinguish a Minister, an Apostle, Elder or any other position held in the church, from a hireling, a false apostle, or false shepherd. The true children of God will be able at any time to tell when God has made an Elder, Deacon, Pastor, Evangelist or any gift in the church. So when God sets them in the church the true sheep who know the voice will tell and recognize such gifts and will be willing to bestow honor on them belonging to them by the laying on of hands. They need no election, no school to make these officers, or committees, to tell who shall serve or who shall not serve.

The above are some of the characteristics of the true church. This true church is now scattered over the world individually and in companies. These companies are called in the Bible the churches of Christ. The disciples, the believers, the saints of the household of God,

etc. All are connected with the true vine and guided by the head, through the Holy Spirit and the word into one faith, one doctrine, one fellowship, one unity, one baptism, and one Lord. Are you satisfied with it? If not why not?

The true church "as builded and fitly framed together, groweth into a holy habitation of God through the spirit." Eph. 2. Paul says Jesus Christ is the master builder, he says, "Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid," but we are to take heed how we build thereon, "For every man's works will be tried of what sort it is." "We are laborers together with God. Ye are God's building." Every true member of the true church is a lively stone in that building. The true church is perfect unity in all its actions and beliefs. Such a unity can never be brought about in any man made organization. Man thinks, in order to have unity, they must draw up specifications for men to subscribe to and thus bring about unity. No true unity can ever be made by such a process. It only tends to division and destroys true fellowship. No human thought ever planned one thing of the true church. No human hand ever marked out its corners nor framed one part in it. Its plan was laid in heaven in the beginning. That plan has never changed. All its plans are laid in the word of God. That word is one story unchangable. It is one truth. It is divine. Its teaching is ever the same, unalterable and eternal. The church is one family. Every child of God from Adam down belongs to that family. We say such a church is divine, and happy is the one who is a member of it.

The true church is invisible. It is the "Elect Lady." It is "the espoused" of Christ. No one on earth can definitely tell who is a member. Only by their works and fruits are they known. But being led by the same spirit and word they are brought into the bond of true fellowship and love.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

"That we hence forth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind."—Eph. 4:11-17.

This, says Paul, is a compact organization in which every joint (gift) works in its proper place. The whole organization is perfect, needing no conferences to change and alter it. It is all brought about by Christ the head. Each member obeying the word and filling the place directed by Him. It is truly "a glorious church without spot or wrinkle."

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

"Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

"This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."—Eph. 5:23-32.

"Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven,

and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

“For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”—Col. 1:11-20.

With these plain scriptures, who, after reading them, would dare accept a position in a man made organization, called a church? Who would dare, after their attention is called to the true organization, retain their membership and support the counterfeit now so common? Who will dare assert that Christ cannot guide and run His own church? The whole trouble today is Christ's place has been possessed by men who are not called of God to fill the places which are occupied. Let the children of God ask God to raise up laborers and wait till He does it. He will do it if we will but get out of the way and give Him a chance.

The head of this church guided Paul where to go, how long to stay and not to be afraid. It told Cornelius where to send for help. The head of this church told Peter to go doubting nothing. This head called the twelve Apostles. It called the seventy disciples. It told them to take nothing for their support with them.

### False Position.

The foundation upon which the various denominations stand in their variety of organizations are caused by two reasons. First. By men who desired to draw away disciples after themselves and second by the false teaching that a new church begin its history since Christ. Of the first cause it is easy to see that those who desire to draw away disciples after themselves there necessarily must be an organization different in order to hold the following in subjection. Hence different points of faith must be recognized and a different church policy must be adopted in order to make a distinction. Jeroboam was an example of this class in his organization of the ten tribes. Different days of worship were

established. A different priesthood made from among the people and different doctrines taught in the place of the doctrine established by God. Jeroboam's organization when established, became a creed or sect. 1 Kings 12:26-33.

The second reason as to why so many sects have arisen since Christ is the fact that a false teaching has crept in. Namely, that a new church was established since Christ. This idea being generally accepted, each one who would be a leader has taught their ideas of church government were the correct method. If a new church was formed, each have tried to find the form of the new church organization; there being none given in the New Testament Scriptures. Each has, like Jeroboam, made an organization after their own pattern, which has resulted in confusion and which constitutes the daughters of Babylon. Rev. 17. By reading the chapter entitled the Two Women of Revelation 12th and 17th chapters in "The Story of the Real Jew," it is made plain that no new organization or church was instituted since Christ was here by the Lord. As to the next point, Paul said that after his departure there would be men who would arise teaching perverse things, drawing away disciples after themselves. This has been fulfilled to no limit.

We desire to handle the question on organization quite fully, both in the call of laborers, the organization of the believers, and the support of the work. The people seem to know so little of true organization such as God has organized, and instead permitted themselves to be entangled with organizations of Baal worship, without ability to distinguish the difference. It has often been said to us, You don't believe in organization, referring, of course, to such organization as the denominations now have. Of course we do not, but to leave the question there does not state the truth of what we do believe. I am a strong believer in organization. More systematic, more thorough, more successful, more unity of action, more in being directed in my work, than any denomination now existing believes. But the one I believe in is of God. The church, which is the only true church, it is organized and built directly by the Lord.

Christ is the head of that Church. It is not visible. It is not chartered by law of the land. It is not named by men. It is not guided by men. It is the only church there is. Any other is not of God. Hence my opposer is not of this church, or else very ignorant of Bible teaching. Which is it, my brother? It is surely the difficulty with you as stated. Every member of Christ's church will do as God's laws demand for the support of the work it is doing. That is the evidence of true membership.

When we accept his instructions we are thoroughly organized in the most thoroughly organized body in the world, yet man has had **not one thing** to do in the planning neither the running of the true church. All he can do is to comply with the instructions and do the work God lays on him as a servant of the Lord and the church. We need no election. We need no committee to draw plans and specifications. We need no laws and constitutions. We need no plans for raising finances. We need no vote whether a certain one shall become a member, neither a vote to put one out. We need no head neither a president or pope, chairman or chief. We need no foreign mission board. We need no theological schools to fit men for the ministry, they are all taught of God and not of men. We need no general, neither local conference to take up our time and means. We need no quarterlies from which to teach. These, with many other things we have no need of, which are now so common. The Bible and the Holy Ghost with Christ the head of the church and we in Him and He in us meets all needs.

### What We Do Need.

We need men and women who are willing to do what God says, who are willing to be organized as individuals so they will do the Lord's bidding. We need people who will covet earnestly the spiritual gifts, who are willing to improve their talents under the Lord's teaching of His word that they may do service for God. This means every member should fill some talent though it be but one. We need those who will support the church in its work with the finances God has seen fit to

give them from His soil and their talents, given them by the Lord to use. We need men and women who will have a burden for souls till they will teach others the truth. In brief, we need men and women who will obey God in all things, not some one hobby, though that hobby may be true. Many are going to be lost because they will not be willing to be organized by the Lord for service. We not only want organization, but we must have it or fail. But we want the Lord's organization and not man's. Christ is our head. He is our guide. His word must abide in us and we must abide in Him so He can teach us. There is not one idle drone in the true church.

We further need spiritual discernment to know when we see one whom the Lord has called. We can't make an Elder, Deacon, Preacher, Teacher, gift of healing, and so on, but God wants us to be able to tell one of His make from the one man has made, and be able to recognize the true and give them a place where they have been called to fill. This we must be able to do. We need to earnestly pray the Lord of the harvest to raise up laborers for the harvest after His own calling as He did when here. Men who are not afraid to declare the whole council of God. Men who are not afraid to go into the harvest till they know just how much wages they are to receive. Men who dare not confer with flesh and blood. But such as will move out by faith and face the difficulties they have to meet as brave soldiers for Christ.

Now is the time when this true church must arise and shine in contrast to the false which are so numerous at this time. 1919 is the year for the development of this class of organized people of the Lord. The past fifteen years the teaching which is to develop them has been going on in development. Now our way is clear for every one who wishes to know this truth and join this church by doing all things the Lord requires to take their stand with us. We do not ask you to do a thing not pointed out in the Bible, but we do ask you to become a co-laborer with Christ in this closing work by supporting this, the only true doctrine as a whole, now being taught to the people, which is the doctrine which

will develop the true remnant people of God. Will you accept the truth and become one of us in the work God now wishes done in the earth? We have tried to point out the true church, "the church," the only church there is which is recognized by the Lord as His church. Be sure and get your membership in it. This is the church which John calls "the elect lady." It will live when all others fail.

### Something Worth Knowing.

In these days of "lo here, and lo there," it is well to understand some principles of the Bible teaching. It is well to know how God brings things to pass. In the days before the flood he wished the world to know of the event. He selected just one man to make the event known and that was Noah. To him He communicated every detail. When those days passed and the everlasting covenant was to be renewed to the people of God it was all arranged with one man and that was Abraham. When Israel was to be led out of Egyptian bondage the Lord used just one man and that was Moses. When they were to be led across Jordan into the promised land Joshua was the man selected for the work and God magnified him before the people. Following this, in reading the history of Israel, we find it was a one man instrument and never a council or a company selected to manage the work God had to perform. Daniel was the man for his day. John the Baptist was the man for his day. The last Old Testament writer says, Behold I send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Question. Shall we look for this to be fulfilled by some denomination, or will God give the burden of developing that work to some one leader to start and develop the teaching necessary to raise up men and women to fill the prophecy and gather the remnant? That is the question now to be decided. Many have claimed they were the Elijah, such as Alexander Dowey, Charles T. Russell and others. As to denominations, the Seventh Day Adventist, the Mormons, and so on. How are we to determine who are the true Elijah? John was the man who fulfilled it in his day, for Christ said he did. But it is to be more

fully fulfilled in our day all will admit. But who is it and what will the characteristics be that we may not be deceived? If John fulfilled it, how did he do it, and what was the burden of his message? The burden of John's message is plainly stated, namely, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The prophet had said of John's message, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make His paths straight." John had a message that demanded of every one their consideration. He was the forerunner to prepare the way for Christ. John's message was a message of salvation and must be accepted. There was salvation in no other. He told the people not to say they were of Abraham's seed and trust in that. Nothing short of true repentance on the part of both professor and non-professor could fill the bill. Repentance demanded obedience to the commandments of God the same as Elijah told King Ahab. He told Ahab he and his house had forsaken the commandments of God. That was where the trouble lay. That is the trouble now the same as it was then. So whoever gives the message of Elijah in the last days, Repentance must be the foundation of that message.

Sin is always the breaking of the commandments and all, whether professor or non-professor, must repent and turn to obedience. When this is undertaken each one will find plenty to repent of. Baal worship was the trouble in the days of Elijah. Other days of worship had been observed. Other forms of worship had been instituted. False priests, not of God's calling, were filling the places and the whole service of God had been set aside for the worship of Baal. So it is now. See our tract on Rev. 12th and 17th chapters. Now as we compare those who now claim they are the Elijah that is to come, is it true? We say no, not one of them fills the bill by any means. There is not one of them who keep the commandments as they are written. Neither is there a denomination today which fills the bill. They have followed Baal in their organizations. They teach many things which are unscriptural. In brief, they have not the truth for this time on the Gathering of the Remnant. When you find a teacher who takes the whole Bible, leaving nothing to be abolished, one who has God's

form of organization and church government. In short one who teaches Moses and the prophets in full as they taught and practiced, such a one will come much nearer filling the prophecy than they who claim they are Elijah, and remember that no sect or present organization can fill the prophecy among present existing denominations, for it must be started by some individual and developed by some one individual, for that is God's way of doing. Next, that individual must have a sound doctrine in all their teaching and proclaim the whole council of God, regardless of any. Now look out for such a work; if it is not to be found, then Elijah has not yet come. The Jews did not know it when it was before their eyes. So it may be now.

### Evidence Whereby to Judge the True Messenger.

First. Any one fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi as representative of Elijah must have some thing definite as already stated. Hence, if any leader or publisher or investigating to find truth, you may know at once writes or speaks as though they were seeking for truth they are not the Elijah. Christ said of John, "What went ye out to see, a reed shaken with the wind." That is, a man who could be whiffed about and having no knowledge of what to teach. John "spake as one having authority." A true messenger has some thing positive and knows whereof he speaks.

Second. The very character of the message is given us. Namely, it is based on the Law and the prophets, and an immediate preparation to meet the Lord. So the true Elijah of our day cannot be some one who is making a specialty of some one thing, which we might mention as some now who have some hobby as the all important thing; (some one thing and some another). No such a person is even connected with the message of Elijah.

Third. John was a prophet, yet we never hear or read that he ever had a vision or uttered a prophecy of future events, but he did proclaim that which was already written by the prophets. So any one claiming the Elijah message will not have some thing special given them in vision but they will base their evidence on that which is already written for our day and time.

Fourth. It will not be given by any sect or denomination. John was free from them all. When he saw the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said, "Oh generation of Vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come." So we need not look to some denomination to give the message, for they will not do it.

Fifth. Malachi especially gives the law of Moses as a part of that message. He says, "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant which I commanded him for all Israel with the statutes and judgments." This plainly shows there must, with that message, be a reform on the teaching of Moses. The remnant "sing the song of Moses." So again any one who teaches that law to be abolished in any way cannot be giving the message of Elijah. Note all these points. The time is here for the message. It is time now that the remnant know with whom the message is found. You can't understand too well. It is the truth alone which is to determine.

The Bible is the only source to which any child of God can go for instruction upon things pertaining to the work of God. The Holy Spirit is the guide as to what the Bible teaches. His office is to bring to remembrance all things written in the word to those who have studied the word.

So we turn to that word and learn who are workers in the cause of God, and how they were made such, and the manner of their support while working.

First, how did they, in Bible times, become workers? The first one we will notice whom God used as a special minister to give the people a message was Noah. In this case we find the Lord personally called him, gave him a message and told him what to do. The next one was Abraham. The Lord appeared to him also and gave him his work. The Lord appeared to Isaac, his son, and instructed him. The next was Jacob. And again the Lord did the same to him as he had done to the former. Next, the Lord sent Joseph before the children of Israel into Egypt and managed his entire history there that he might be a forerunner to the twelve tribes when they were brought to Egypt to preserve their lives.

Next, when they were to leave Egypt, the Lord ap-

peared to Moses at the burning bush and gave him the instructions necessary to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. The Lord called Aaron to be his mouth-piece.

The Lord personally managed their entire journey while in the wilderness. After the death of Moses and Aaron the Lord magnified Joshua before the people to be their leader, and gave him full instructions what to do. During the reign of the Judges when the Israelites sinned and they cried to God, the Lord raised up deliverers. He called Barak, Jephthah, Gideon, and Samson as deliverers. Gideon was taken from the threshing floor where he was threshing wheat. The others, like this one, were all just common men such as God could use to do the work he wished to have done. Samuel, the next great man in Bible history, was dedicated by his mother to the Lord before his birth. David, the next, was especially chosen by the Lord from the sheep fold, where he was a keeper of his father's sheep.

As to the prophets, we read that Amos was called by the Lord to prophesy when he was a herdman of Tekoa. Amos 1:1. Jeremiah was called to be a prophet before he was born, Jer. 1:5. Ezekiel was called by the Lord when a captive in Babylon. Eze. 1:1. Daniel, another prophet, was called by the Lord when but a youth, a captive in Babylon. Dan. 1:17.

Elisha, the prophet, was called by God when plowing with twelve yoke of oxen.

Of all the other prophets of the Old Testament it is said the word of the Lord came to each one as directly from the Lord. If it was an angel that visited the prophet, the Lord sent him.

Turning to the New Testament we find that Christ did His own choosing of His disciples. Peter, James and John were fishermen, ignorant and unlearned. Paul was educated and a member of the sect of the Pharisees and a bitter persecutor of the saints when the Lord appeared to him personally and called him to the work. Matthew was a tax gatherer when the Lord called him. All were chosen directly by the Lord; occupation, educated, poor or rich, none of which has ever entered into the question with God as to the fitness of the individual for the work. It was what was in the man's heart and what God could

see that could be made out of the individual that determined his acceptance. Note, in all the story, man has never had a single thing to do with the selection of laborers for God.

It is equally true, as we study the work, that man has had nothing to do with the directing of men where to go, nor how or what to preach in all the story of the Bible. In order to see how literally true this is read the story of the Acts of the Apostles, so-called; but in truth it is a book telling us how the Lord directed in every thing that was done, thus making it a book that tells us how the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, carried forward the work after He left the world.

It is remarkable to read the Bible with these statements in mind, to see how that God himself is the Head of the Church and the absolute ruler of the actions of men in his work. He told them where to go and how to act. He was the Mission Board Manager, and Overseer of the whole thing. Leaving no place for middle men or managers of men.

The greatest authority given any laborer was to be subject to the Lord, and teach whatsoever He had commanded him: and for all his actions he would answer to God, and in the end God would try every man's work of what sort it was, and reward him according to his work. 1st Cor. 3:9-15. On these terms He promised to be with His servants even to the end of the world, promising them that the Holy Spirit should ever be with them to guide them into all truth. This we hold to be God's plan of operation. He needs no middle authority, or directors, no paymasters, no instructors to tell them what or how to preach. In brief every man must answer to God alone and not to man. He must be called by God alone to the work and not by man. The Gospel machinery of this age is Babylonish and of the world, and patterned after worldly methods.

The Ministry is not a profession that can be picked up and laid down at will, without disaster to the one who practises such a course. Paul said, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel," and he further said, "I conferred not with flesh and blood." He realized that His life belonged to the Lord. In fact it is quite a question whether a

man, who is chosen of God, will ever give up the work to which God has called him. He may work with his hands for support as did the Apostle Paul, but that labor is only during the time he is working for God for self support. He has in no wise quit the work of God. There is a power behind the true Minister beyond his control that urges him on and is ever pressing him into the work to which he has been called. In fact that is one of the great tests that he has been called of God.

Another test is the evidence of God's blessing upon his work in the conversion of souls; another is his diligence in making himself the most efficient in every way that will aid in teaching the truth and helping the people; another test is that the work does not stop because of trials and difficulties. It is by the evidence given in the Bible that the people may know them by their fruits.

The Minister who is called of God and fitted for His work is as much higher than the minister whom men may make, as the heavens are higher than the earth. A minister, whom men make, are hirelings. They are moulded as literally after the pattern of the denomination that makes them as the Chinese foot is moulded after the pattern that fashions it. About the first thing each denomination does is to build a factory called a theological school, in which to make and fit ministers for the ministry. The schools are really to make factory-made preachers of that pattern.

The law of Moses teaches a direct call to the Ministry. Aaron was called of God to act as High Priest. His successors in that office were to be his sons and his sons' sons. Aaron being a type of Christ, teaches that Christ's Priests must be such as are of his direct call to that place. The reader should know how particular the Lord was that no one ministered at the altar but those who were the seed of Aaron:

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

"Who was faithful to Him that appointed Him, as also Moses was faithful in all His house.

"For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

"Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them

that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

"And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

"And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

"So also Christ glorified not Himself to be made an high priest; but He that said unto Him, Thou art my Son today have I begotten Thee?"—Heb. 3:1, 2; Heb. 5:1-5.

The whole tribe of Levi was taken by the Lord to do His work for the people. They were chosen in the place of the first born males of each tribe. The first born males of each tribe the Lord claimed as His by perserving them from death at the time all the firstborn of Egypt were slain as Israel left Egypt.

"And the Lord said unto Moses, Number all the firstborn of the males of the children of Israel from a month old and upward, and take the number of their names.

"And thou shalt take the Levites for me (I am the Lord) instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel; and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstlings among the cattle of the children of Israel.

"And Moses numbered, as the Lord commanded him, all the firstborn among the children of Israel."—Num. 3:40-42.

"Ye are not your own. Ye are bought with a price."—1 Cor. 6:20.

The definition of Apostle is "one sent." This sending of Apostles must be from the Lord and not men.

It is further plain that an Apostle is one who enters new fields and establishes the work of God in regions beyond. He is not chosen to manage men, for that belongs to God only. The Signs of the Apostleship should ever be manifest that others can see that by his fruits he is called of God.

"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

"For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.

"I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.

"Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? as am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

"Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

"Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

"Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

"In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren."—2 Cor. 12:12, 13; 11:21-26.

These manifestations will, as necessity demands, ever accompany a true priest. They are not men selected by men but are chosen of God as was Aaron. They are men who pioneer new fields and establish the work of God; men who have a message direct from God for the day in which they live. They are not made by men, neither are they subject to men, and all other gifts of the Spirit as given to men are only to assist the work God has to be done. These gifts were distributed among the Christians as it pleased the Lord to give to each man as He would; each one answering to God for the gift granted the individual. Thus all becoming workers together with God. No one having dominion over another's faith.

"Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us in God; who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the spirit in our hearts.

"Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy; for by faith ye stand.—2 Cor. 1:21, 22, 24.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

"And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

"And there are diversities of operation, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues; but all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will."—1 Cor. 12:4-11.

Man can judge whom God has called, but can in no wise have any part in the selecting or fitting of men for the work of God.

First: "They must all be taught of God." Second: This teaching is such that the world knows nothing of the things taught.

When the Pharisees heard the ignorant and unlearned men, they perceived they had been taught of Jesus something they could not answer.

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

“For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

“And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

“Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect; yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought.

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.

“Which none of the princes of this world knew; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard; neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.

“But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”—1 Cor. 2:1-16.

After reading the above who could think himself sufficient to instruct a minister how he should conduct the work God has called him to perform? How could we imagine Paul establishing schools and then visiting them to teach out of books written by men and instructing men how to preach? Paul ever thanked God that Grace comes from God alone. (1 Cor. 1:4-10.) Paul himself dared not assume this position, much less should men in this age of the world do so who need to be taught rather than instruct others. It is true they can teach things of the world and give such a mould as the world

will receive but they cannot teach how to preach or make converts to God. Paul thanked God that Grace was given them of God. It is true that a denomination who by that denomination, can have instructors for that purpose, and they can require all to comply with that mould or be rejected from their hireling service in the church. **But do not call it the Ministry of Christ, for it is not.**

"Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom.

"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are; that no flesh should glory in his presence.

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

"That according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."—1 Cor. 1:19-31.

"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

"Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours."—1 Cor. 3:18, 21.

Possibly the strongest evidence given the laborer for God that the Lord is accepting his laborers is the fruit of that labor.

"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."—1 Cor. 4:15.

Thus it must be perfectly clear to every honest person that a man-made ministry is not what God wants, neither will it answer His purpose. And further as we view each effort made in that manner we ask, What has it done for the world? The number of ministers has

been increased; but spirituality has decreased in proportion, until the call has now come with full force to come out of Babylon and let every man save his own soul. In no manner is Babylon more marked than in the present system of organization and the hired ministry which includes the present methods of education and fitting of men and women for gospel work.

### 1919 and the Law.

Who will join in making this a year when they will certainly learn the teachings of God's laws?

All who will do this will find that nothing will give them a greater insight to an understanding of the Bible than the study of God's laws. It is one of God's two witnesses. It is the very foundation on which the whole plan of salvation is built. We do not mean by this study that you will study the Sabbath question alone, neither any other one subject, but the whole teaching of the laws as they are given in the Bible. Says Malachi, "Remember ye the law of Moses which he commanded in Horeb with the statutes and judgments for all Israel."

The Lord said to Joshua:

"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

"Be strong and of good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."—Joshua 1:5-9.

Be of good courage ye children of the Lord at this time. For nothing but success will ever attend those who regard God's law. Nothing can stand before them, only success, success, success, is as sure to follow all who obey God's laws in every respect as the sun is to arise each day.

This is the first year, no doubt, since the great apostacy was fully developed that there was a people who starts out as a company of the Remnant people to observe all the laws of God, to carry them out for the purpose for which they were written, seeking the lesson taught by each sacrifice and the observance of the appointed days of worship. Thus becoming the thoroughly organized people of the Lord. This means much. Every one should secure volume one and two of the "Book of the Law," for a helper to this study. Gain the point where you know as an individual where you stand on this important question. It will feed your soul.

By the side of this great study comes the other witness, the prophets. These two lines carry the Remnant people through to the end of the race set before them. I feel this year to be one of such great interest to the Remnant people. God has been preparing for this for several years by developing the truth that covers the whole Bible and not some one or two points of which to make a hobby and establish a creed on.

The Lord instructed Israel in their choice of a king as follows:

"When thou art come unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

"Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee whom the Lord thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

"But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses, forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

"Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away; neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

"And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life; that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

"That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom.

he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."—Deut. 17:14-20.

### Strange Notions.

Some think that without an organization made by men wherein certain rules are adopted and a creed established there could be nothing accomplished. They say if every one is left to do as they please and believe what they please it would be confusion and Babylon.

We were once just that ignorant. Why were we? Because it was all we knew, being reared and brought up at the feet of modern Gamalials we were taught so. The trouble was we did not know the Bible. In the true church there is the very best of unity and also fellowship. Why? Because they all believe the same. They are all guided by one teacher and head. They all take the same lesson from the same book. They are all guided by the same spirit into all truth. Now as long as the people can be held by their teachers and kept in the same ignorance, they will still believe as we once believed regarding a man-made organization. We ask why is it that the professed followers of Christ are so divided? All because they will hold onto their organization and creed adopted. Some of which are very old with age.

Last winter there was in our town a great effort by three classes to unite. All said they wanted union, but when the real issue came one said they had the proper name. Another said their name and tenets were the oldest. The third had the best house of worship which was sufficient for all, and they should all meet with them. That soon ended the unity. There was nothing doing. This is but a sample of every organization in the world. They want union but are like the man who admitted the world turned on its axes, but he was the axes. God pity such blindness and selfishness. We told them all if they would throw away their disciplines and names and be willing to take the Bible alone in the church for study and all seek to comply with its teaching we would unite with them in the study of the word and worship on an equal basis. We think when a person or class are not willing to do this then they hold something above the Bible, and some organization above the Lord's organiza-

tion. They wish something besides the truth. They are seeking for something in preference to Christ to guide them. The man or woman who cannot take the open Bible alone and study with honesty with others is to be pitied. They better learn the book.

We would not boast, far from it, but we will say the foregoing is the absolute true teaching of the Bible on organization, and the one who does not accept it will see their mistake when it may be too late to profit them.

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