

The True Church of God

Our Lord Jesus said that the Church He would build would not perish, yet in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 Jesus gives a prophetic message of 7 church eras each led by a man, and each of which would fail in turn, have their lamp removed and be succeeded by the next church. This raises the question, Which is the True church of God?

Mat 16.18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus also warned that although MANY are called only FEW will be chosen (Matt 22:14) and that the road to eternal Life is a difficult one (Matt 7:14) and that FEW will find this road.

Mat 7.14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
22.14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Yet we also understand that in this Age God calls only relatively few, the elect of God, the called out ones (Mat 24:31; Mark 13:27; Luke 18:7), just as in O.T. times God called just one nation, Israel, out of all the nations. It is those initially called out ones that are the MANY of Matthew 22:14. From these initial called ones God will finally choose only a FEW; presumably the FEW who find that strait gate and narrow way.

Revelations chapters 2 and 3 give a prophetic overview of the N.T. church over 7 successive church eras, all of which fail in the end. Apparently these are not the Church of God that Jesus will build and against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. Today we see a good deal of disagreement amongst the churches that call themselves of God and even within anyone of these churches there is a lack of unity. Yet Jesus prayed in John 17 that the church be as one, and as one with His Father and with Him as He and His Father are as one. This oneness of the church with God the Father and Himself Jesus predicated on Truth.

John 17.17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
.18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.
.19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.
.20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;
.21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.
.22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:
.23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

This then must be the true Church of God, which I think of as the *Unity in Truth*. This *Unity in Truth* and which includes the true Church of God is contrary to mainstream Christendom's *Triune Trinity*, which excludes the church. Jesus prayed plainly for oneness of the Church with God and Himself. That God the Father be in Jesus, Jesus in the Church and the church be one in God the Father and Jesus (verse 21).

Clearly this *Unity in Truth* is not a human church organization for in these the ministry will always lord it over the people (at least in the longer run). The human church organization will soon become doctrinally and in other ways corrupt when the pastor general begins to displace God and the pastor general's teaching will take pre-eminence over God's Word. Then a man's tradition will be taken in preference to God's Word of Truth. At least MOST of the MANY called initially to this human church organization, will follow the tradition of their leader.

A FEW will seek to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:23) as Jesus warned God the Father would seek.

John 4.23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

This ties in with Matthew 22:14 that although MANY are called only FEW will be chosen. Only those FEW will be with God the Father and with Jesus that *Unity in Truth* which is the true Church of God against which the gates of hell (grave) will not prevail.

Let us now look at an example from the O.T. where God too selects a FEW from an initial MANY. Gideon began with an army of 32,000, which was reduced by 22,000 to 10,000 (Judg 7:1-3). Yet God judged there were still far too many and God told to Gideon that He would try them (verse 4). Verses 5-6 show that those that brought the

water to their mouth in their hand were chosen. They watched what they drank before drinking; whereas the MOST drank straight from the river without watching. These were not chosen! It is like this with the Church of God. MOST of the MANY called initially will imbibe uncritically the traditional teaching and will be rejected. The FEW that critically evaluate church doctrine against God's Word from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 will be chosen like Gideon's 300.

My paper *Laodicea's Lamp!* shows that the late Mr Herbert W. Armstrong led from 1934 to 1974 God's 7th and final church era of Laodicea and that he and that church were spewed from our Lord's mouth in 1978/79 because of lukewarmness on the most pivotal aspects of God's Plan. Virtually the whole ministry and membership said in 1974 Amen to Mr Armstrong rejecting God the Father's *Garden of Eden Marriage* law. This was behind the lukewarmness of Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22). This means we are now beyond the period of human church organizations. The final and 7th era of God's church is over; it ended in 1978/79. Significantly we read for the post Laodicean era (today!):

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

We need to be ready and open the door to our heart when Jesus knocks and then sup with Him of solid spiritual food instead of the weak spiritual milk our ministers fed us and off which we must be weaned. This means we must learn to study God's Word directly. Paul said as much to the Apostolic church.

1 Cor 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.
.2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.
.3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

MOST of the MANY called initially by God to a human church organization never grow in grace and knowledge. They have no idea what their call is about. They do not sup with our Lord on solid spiritual food and will not be weaned off the weak initial spiritual milk their ministers gave them. Only the FEW that are finally chosen will sup with their Lord on solid spiritual food and will enter that glorious *Unity in Truth*, the true Church of God. Entry into this church is by invitation from God. No man can block the way and no man can eject anyone from the true Church of God. The Elect may attend one of the remaining human church organizations but they will soon be ousted from there when they refuse to embrace there the prevailing human traditions and insist instead on God's Truth (John 4:23).

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Issue 1.1, September 9, 2007: Page 2, para 2, line 2 'was' changed to 'were'

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