

Don't Take the Bait:
Attend the Church of Your Choice or One Church is as Good as Another

Introduction:

- A. There are an estimated 380,000 churches in the United States. In the state of Tennessee alone, there is an estimated 11,000 different churches.
- B. With so many different churches available, the question becomes, "Which church should I attend?"
- C. Many people believe and even teach that what church one attends does not really matter so long as a person is attending church somewhere? Is this really the case? What does the Bible teach?

The New Testament Teaches There Is Only One Church and It Belongs to Jesus

- A. Jesus promised to build His church, not His different churches (Matt. 16:13-18).
- B. Paul preached there was only one church and Jesus was the head of it (Eph. 4:4-6; Col. 1:18).
- C. Jesus never intended for His church to be divided into different churches who all believe and practice different things (Jn. 17:20-21; I Cor. 1:10). His church is to be united and speak the same things.

How Do We Know If We Have Found the Lord's Church? (Acts 2:41-47)

- A. Does the church teach God's Word and only God's Word?
 - 1. The early church was devoted to the apostles' doctrine or teaching (Acts 2:42).
 - 2. Many churches teach things which cannot be found in the Bible (Matt. 7:15).
 - 3. We must be like the Bereans and search the Scriptures to see if the things taught are true (Acts 17:11).
- B. Does the church act/behave according to God's Word?
 - 1. The early church was devoted to fellowship and caring for the needs of one another (Acts 2:42; 45-46).
 - 2. Not only did they attend the temple together, but they fellowshiped outside times of worship.
 - 3. We are to contribute to the needs of the saints and to seek to show hospitality (Rom. 12:13).
- C. Does the church worship according to God's Word?
 - 1. The early church was devoted to the breaking of bread and to prayer; aspects of worship.
 - 2. The church is under the authority of Jesus so everything we do must be done according to His authority and will (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 3:17).
 - 3. We must worship in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24), otherwise our worship is in vain.

Conclusion:

- A. There are a lot of good people who have been deceived into thinking one church is as good as another.
- B. Brethren, a church must teach the right way, live the right way and worship the right way.
- C. In the end, there will be a lot of religious people who are lost (**Matt. 7:21-23**).