Mixed Seed

*(Why Are There So Many Churches?)*

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 8th, 2020

Text: II Timothy 4:3-4

### Intro

1. There are many misconceptions about the church which Jesus built.
2. The misconceptions are from confusion over the religious world’s many churches all claiming to have been the one Jesus built.
3. A common question is, “Why are there so many churches?”
   1. The next question is oftentimes, “How do I know which one is right?”
4. Because there are so many churches claiming to belong to God, some conclude that “one church is as good as another.”
   1. And when church shopping, many ask, “What do you offer?”
5. The question people should be asking is, “Is it the church Jesus built?”
6. If one church is as good another, then Christ’s blood was spilled in vain, for He said He would build His church (singular, not plural) – Mt. 16:18; Acts 20:28 (Bought in His own blood)
7. If Christ built only one church, then why are there so many churches?

#### There Is Only One Church Jesus Died to Save

* 1. The word "church" is used in two senses in the New Testament:
     1. *Universal Sense:* This refers to the saved of all the earth, and is the church in the whole (Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:47) – the word “catholic” means “universal.”
     2. *Local Sense:* This refers to the saved gathered together according to geographical terms of limitation (I Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1) – Local churches
  2. Right Founder: Jesus Christ
     1. Foretold: Jer. 23:5-6: Branch of David foretold
     2. Fulfilled: Jesus – Mt. 1:21; 16:18; John 1:29; Acts 20:28
        1. Mt. 16:18: Jesus said, “…upon this rock I will build My church.”
        2. *Ekklesia (G1577):* “called out, calling out.” (II Thess. 2:14: By the gospel)
     3. If not built by Jesus Christ, then that church is from man, and not God!
  3. Right Place: Jerusalem
     1. Foretold: Is. 2:1-3: God made the choice to build His church (house) in Jerusalem.
     2. Fulfilled: The church began in Jerusalem! – Mark 9:1; Acts 1:9-12; 2:1-5, 47: (Acts 11:15: “…at the beginning”)
     3. Any church that had its beginning in any place other than Jerusalem is not the church Isaiah prophesied about being built in Jerusalem, nor the church Jesus built!
  4. Right Time: 1st century, in the days of Rome
     1. Foretold: Dan. 2:44: The eternal kingdom Daniel saw would be built in the days of the Romans (“…in the days of those kings...”).
     2. Fulfilled: Day of Pentecost, 1st c. - Acts 2; 11:15: Notice the wording, “…as upon us at the beginning.”
        1. Points back to the day of Pentecost *(Pente = 50; cost = day)* in Acts 2.
     3. Any church not built in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost in 1st c. is not the church Jesus built! *(The days of the Romans are long gone – Gal. 4:4: When the “fullness of time came”)*
  5. Right Foundation: Teachings of the apostles & Jesus as revealed by the Holy Spirit
     1. Foretold: Is. 28:16: God said He would lay in Zion (Jerusalem) a foundation stone.
        1. *Many today erroneously believe Peter was the foundation of the church (Mt. 16:16-18)*
     2. Fulfilled: Jesus, the Son of God is the Rock or Foundation (Acts 8:37) – I Cor. 3:10-11: The foundation is Christ, and no other foundation can be laid!
     3. Foretold: John 14:26; 16:13: The Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth and remind them of all that Jesus taught.
     4. Fulfilled: Teachings of the apostles & Jesus as revealed by the Holy Spirit, who inspired the word of God! (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21)
     5. Any church not founded on the teachings of the apostles & Jesus as revealed by the Holy Spirit is not the church Jesus built!
  6. Right Name: The church that belongs to Jesus Christ; Christians
     1. Foretold: Mt. 16:18: Jesus said He would “My church.”
        1. “MY” is a personal pronoun that denotes possession – the church belongs to Christ! (Rom. 16:16: The churches of Christ greet you”)
     2. Fulfilled: Names given for the church that belongs to Jesus:
        1. Church(es) of Christ (Rom. 16:16); church of God (Acts 20:28); church of the Living God (I Tim. 3:15); church of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23).
     3. Those who make up the Lord’s church are not members of any denomination – they are simply His disciples who wear His name:
        1. Acts 11:26 (“Called”: divinely called – *G5537 chrēmatizō)*
        2. Acts 26:28 (NKJ): Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”
        3. I Pet. 4:16: “If anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.”
     4. Any church or disciples of Jesus called by a different name is not the church that belongs to Jesus!
  7. The church that belongs to Christ was established on the Day of Pentecost with Jesus Christ as its founder!

#### Why Are There So Many Churches?

* 1. ***Short answer: Men would depart from the truth of God’s word!***
  2. Apostasy was warned – From unity would come factions!
     1. I Cor. 1:10-13: Denomination mind-set condemned!
     2. Divisions are not from God!
     3. I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 4:3-4: Men would leave the church (unity) to hear and teach things that they desired to hear! (Selfishness would lead to factions)
  3. A denomination defined:
     1. A denomination is part of a whole (IE: A quarter is part of a dollar).
     2. A religious organization smaller than the whole church, but larger than the local church.
  4. A denomination is therefore too small to be the church in the whole sense, and too large to be the church in the local sense!

#### Mixed Seed

* 1. The Word of God is like “seed”
     1. Luke 8:11: “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”
     2. One characteristic of seed is that it ALWAYS produces after its kind!
  2. From Catholics to Islam, from denominations to other cults, they all have added something extra to the inspired word of God or outright replaced it! They have ***mixed seed!***
     1. A continuing theme in many N.T. epistles is the warning of “other religions”
        1. **Peter** warned “there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies” (II Pet. 2:1-3).
        2. **Peter** reminded and warned us to beware of such false religious teachers “lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked” (II Pet. 3:17).
        3. **John** warned that because “many false prophets have gone out into the world” saints are to “test the spirits to see whether they are from God” (I Jn. 4:1).
        4. **Paul** warned that men would leave the church to hear and teach things that they desired to hear! (I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 4:3-4)
  3. From Catholics to Islam, from denominations to other cults, they all had their beginnings hundreds of years too late to be Christ’s church!
     1. The Catholic Church: Claim to have originated on the day of Pentecost; however, their hierarchy did not emerge till much later. Placing a date is difficult because the church’s records differ from secular history, but most prominent in 4th century (A.D. 300’s). *(They teach Peter was first Pope, forget: Mt. 8:14; Lk. 4:38)*
        1. Founded: First official pope (Latin: “Papa”), Pope Boniface III (many “popes” before him but he is considered by historians to be the first in that he had Emperor Phocas [Byzantine, A.D. 602-610] crown him as “Universal Bishop, successor of Saint Peter” – “God on earth”) (<http://klcc.faithsite.com/content.asp?SID=655&CID=43145>)
        2. Rome, Italy, A.D. 607 (A.D. 1870: Pope declared “infallible”)
        3. Founded on: Catholic Catechism & Apostle’s, Nicene & Athanasian Creeds (Added to the Bible!)
        4. The Roman Catholic Catechism will always produce a Catholic!
     2. Islam: Muhammad claims to receive revelations from the angel Gabriel and writes down messages from Allah – founds Islam (“submission”)
        1. Founded: Muhammad, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, A.D. 610 (Muhammad dies A.D. 632)
        2. Founded on: He wrote the Koran (assembled 70-200 years after his death) and there are other writings.
        3. The Koran (Qur’An) will always produce a Muslim (“one who submits”)!
     3. Eastern & Western Orthodoxy (Roman Catholic):
        1. Eastern Church rejected the papal rule of Pope Leo IX (AD 1002-1054).
        2. Excommunications took place that fractured the Catholic church into two factions: Eastern Orthodoxy (Constantinople, Turkey; Istanbul as of 1930) & Roman Catholic Church (Rome, Italy)
        3. Founded: A.D. 1054 (The “Catholic Schism,” or the “Great Schism”)
        4. Founded on: Catholic Catechism & Apostle’s, Nicene & Athanasian Creeds (as well as others)
        5. Their mixed seed will always produce Eastern Orthodoxy or Catholics!
     4. Lutherans:
        1. Founded: On Martin Luther’s teachings (Broke from Catholics) – Luther posted his 95 thesis on the Castle Door at Wittenberg, Germany in 1517: Gained quite a following by 1526.
        2. Did not call themselves “Lutheran” till sometime after Luther’s death in 1546. (Luther asked to not have his name used by his followers)
        3. Faith only (Luther added “alone” to Rom. 3:28, though not in Greek, to make it say, “faith alone”).
        4. 1517/1526/1546 in Germany
        5. Founded on: Augsburg Confessions (1530) & Book of Concord (1580)
        6. The Augsburg Confession (1530) & Book of Concord (1580) will always produce a Lutheran!
     5. Anabaptists (“one who baptizes again”):
        1. Broke from the Catholic Church.
        2. Realized a baby could not choose to be a member of any church. Founders were baptized according to the Scriptures (Adult Baptism).
        3. Hutterites: Founded by Jacob Hutter in Switzerland, 1527/1528
        4. Mennonites: Founded by Menno Simons in Holland, 1536
        5. Amish: Founded by Jacob Amman in Switzerland, 1690
        6. Founded on: *Schleitheim Confession* (1527 Swiss Anabaptists), and the *Dordrecht Confession* (1632 by Dutch Mennonite leaders)
        7. Their mixed seed will always produce Anabaptists! (Various offshoots)
     6. Church of England:
        1. Founded: King Henry VIII of England (Broke from Catholics), 1534
        2. Exchanged one pope for another: The Monarch over England! (even Queens!) – Split from Roman Catholicism to divorce his 1st wife! (Catherine of Aragon)
        3. Founded on: Book of Common Prayer, Catholic Creeds & Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion
        4. Their mixed seed will always produce Church of England believers!
     7. Calvinism (Calvinists):
        1. Founded: The teachings of John Calvin, Geneva, Switzerland, 1536 (adopted by many denominations) – Predestination, Once saved always saved, faith only (Broke from Catholics)
        2. Once, only found in Presbyterians, but now centuries later nearly all denominations have adopted whole or parts of this doctrine!
     8. Presbyterians:
        1. Founded: John Knox (Pupil of John Calvin), Geneva & Scotland, 1560 (Calvin doctrine; Broke from Catholics)
        2. Founded on: Book of Common Prayer (Tailored to their beliefs) & teachings of John Calvin, the Geneva Bible
        3. The Presbyterian Book of Common Prayer will always produce a Presbyterian!
     9. The Baptist Church (Baptists):
        1. Founded: John Smyth, Holland, 1607/1609 (Broke from Church of England)
        2. Opposed doctrine of Calvin & instrumental music – within 30 years of Smyth’s death, the Baptists were adopting parts of Calvin, and by late 1800’s had adopted instrumental music of all kinds!
        3. Founded on: The Baptist Church Manual
        4. The Baptist Church Manual will always produce a Baptist!
     10. The Methodist Church (Methodists):
         1. Founded: John Wesley, England, 1738/1739 (Broke from Church of England)
         2. Founded on: The Book of Discipline, The Book of Common Prayer by John Wesley
         3. The Book of Discipline will always produce a Methodist!
     11. The Episcopal Church (Episcopalians): U.S. Church of England (changed name after Revolutionary War that began in 1776 – no longer popular to have English Monarch as head of the church!)
         1. Founded: Samuel Seabury, newly sovereign U.S.A., 1783
            1. The first American Episcopal bishop. He was a leading Loyalist in New York City during the American Revolution and a known rival of Alexander Hamilton!
         2. Founded on: Book of Common Prayer, Catholic Creeds & Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion (Revised for USA), Communion Offices (Seabury)
         3. Their mixed seed will always produce Episcopalians!
     12. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons):
         1. Founded: Joseph Smith, Jr., Book of Mormon in USA, 1830
         2. Founded on: Book of Mormon (Other writings)
         3. The Book of Mormon will always produce a Mormon!
     13. Seventh Day Adventists:
         1. Founded: William Miller and Ellen G. White, USA, 1844-1863 – Teach Christians are to observe the Sabbath (Broke from Baptists).
         2. Founded on: The Great Controversy (Other prophecies and books by Ellen G. White)
         3. The Great Controversy will always produce a 7th Day Adventist!
     14. The Salvation Army:
         1. Founded: William Booth, USA, 1865 (Broke from Methodists)
         2. Founded on: *Helps to Holiness* by Samuel Logan Brengle (1896) and the Salvation Army’s Eleven Doctrines (They use military ranks for their clergy; IE: William Booth was their first General)
         3. *Helps to Holiness* and the Salvation Army’s Eleven Doctrines will always produce a Salvation Army Officer/Member!
     15. Jehovah’s Witnesses:
         1. Founded: Charles Taze Russell, USA, 1870 (Broke from Presbyterians)
         2. Founded on: The Watchtower Society
         3. The Watchtower Society will always produce a Jehovah’s Witness!
     16. Christian Scientists:
         1. Founded: Mary Baker Eddy, USA, 1875, who argued in her book *Science and Health* (1875) that sickness is in the mind!
         2. Founded on: *Science and Health* (1875) – Other writings
         3. Science and Health and other Eddy writings will always produce a Christian Scientist!
     17. Pentecostal Church: Early 1900’s saw a number of “holiness churches” spring up, claiming to speak in tongues. (Broke from Methodists) – Also called the Charismatic movement
         1. Founded: The teachings of Charles Parham (USA), 1901
         2. Assemblies of God – 1906 by William J Seymour
         3. Church of the Nazarene – 1907-1908 by a Methodist minister named Phineas F. Bresee.
         4. Church of God (various forms) – From the 1901-1906 era
         5. Founded on: Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths (Direct operation of Holy Spirit)
         6. Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths will always produce a Pentecostal!
     18. Foursquare Church:
         1. Founded: Aimee Semple McPherson, L.A., USA, 1923 (Broke from Pentecostals)
         2. Maintains fellowship with the Pentecostal movements’ various works
         3. Founded on: Declaration of Faith by Aimee Semple McPherson
         4. Their Declaration of Faith and Pentecostal literature will always produce a Foursquare Church member or Pentecostal!
     19. Church of Scientology (Scientology/Scientologists):
         1. Founded: Science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, USA, 1953 (Author of *Dianetics*).
         2. Founded on: *Dianetics* (other writings)
         3. Dianetics will always produce a Scientologist!
     20. Calvary Chapel Church:
         1. Founded: Chuck Smith, USA, 1965 (Broke from the Foursquare church movement & Pentecostalism)
         2. Ministered to hippies, outcasts, surfers, and drug addicts.
         3. Founded on: *Calvary Chapel Distinctives* by Chuck Smith (summarizes the tenets for which Calvary Chapel stands)
         4. Calvary Chapel Distinctives will always produce a Calvary Chapel member! (Or mixed with Pentecostal/Foursquare Church teachings can also produce a Pentecostal hybrid, or other form of a Charismatic!)
  4. These churches were built by men 600-1900 years after Christ built His church!
     1. Different founders, different founding locations & dates, & differing founding documents!
     2. The Scriptures foretold the one church would be founded by Jesus Christ in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, which happened in the 1st c. and on the word of Jesus as revealed by the Holy Spirit!
  5. These all have a place in secular history that records their founders and dates, and all are too late to be the “one body” (church) that Jesus died to save!

## Conclusion

1. Why are there so many churches?
   1. II Tim. 4:3-4: Men departed the truth of God and devised doctrines in accordance with their likings and began teaching as doctrine their traditions! (Mt. 15:8-9) – ***Mixed Seed!***
   2. What they all have in common is they are human in origin! (Man-made)
   3. II Cor. 11:3: Too many people allowed themselves to be misled away from the simplicity of the gospel!
2. Mixed Seed will only produce confusion and a perverted message of the gospel!
   1. The only way to get the unity Jesus prayed for is to use the same seed (Luke 8:11)
   2. If the only “seed” sown was the N.T. gospel as taught by the apostles, what would result?
   3. Because seed always produces after its kind, the only thing that could possibly be produced by the N.T. is a Christian — *No other names necessary!*
3. It is important to know the differences between the church Jesus died to build and denominations!
4. **Are you of the seed that is the word of God, or from “mixed seed?”**
5. Salvation is found only in the one church Jesus died to build for He is the Savior of “the body!” *(Eph. 5:23)*
6. If you are not a Christian, you are outside the family of God! Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian in error, remember the blessings of being a part of His family! Repent!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

**Sources:**

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