

What the Bible Says About...

ONE CHURCH

INTRO.

- A. We have several families who have new babies. What do you suppose would be the mom's reaction if, when she went to the nursery to pick up her baby, it was not there, and the attendant said, "Choose any one you want."
- Is "One baby as good as another?" "Is one wife/husband as good as another?" ... car? meal?
- Why are so many people willing to accept the idea that "one church is as good as another?"
- B. What does the Bible have to say about all these churches? - NOTHING!

I- THE BIBLE ONLY SPEAKS OF ONE CHURCH (Brief history):

- Matthew 16:16-18 - Jesus promised to build [what He referred to as] "My Church." (Future tense)
- Acts 2:47- Church is spoken of as being in existence (Present tense)
 - 87 more times in remainder of N.T., the church is spoken of in the present tense.
- The church in Jerusalem was the first one until Acts 7. Result: Acts 8:1-3- disciples were scattered.
 - Let's follow one of these disciples - PHILIP
 - Acts 8:5-25- **Samaria**- new church established
- Gospel continues being preached by scattered Christians until we get to **Antioch** - Acts 11:19-26
 - Antioch church will be a strong gentile church. Send out missionaries- Acts 13-20

II- THESE MISSIONARIES WILL ESTABLISH CHURCHES WHICH WILL RECEIVE 22 "EPISTLES" WHICH COMPRISE THE REMAINDER OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

... Let's note how these inspired men wrote about the importance of the church:

- Acts 20:28- "...*God's church, which he bought with his own blood.*"
- Ephesians 1:22-23- teaches us some important things about the church:
 1. God appointed Christ as "...*head over everything to the church.*"
 2. The church is "...*the body of Christ.*"
- Ephesians 3:10-11- The church was in God's eternal purpose as THE ILLUSTRATION OF HIS WISDOM.
- Ephesians 3:21 - God intends for the church to continue forever!
- Ephesians 4:4- "*one body*"
 - v14-16 - Christ is the head of that body
- Ephesians 5:23-32- Christ has a **deep love for and devotion to** that church.
- Colossians 1:18,24- The church is referred to as "*Christ's body.*"
- 1 Timothy 3:14-15- Church is "*God's household...the pillar and foundation of the truth.*"

CONCL.

- A. Jesus promised to build His church. HE DID.
- We become a member of Christ's church the same way they did in Acts 2:37-38
- B. The idea of multiple churches is totally foreign to the Bible.
- C. The Lord only has ONE CHURCH!