

## The History of Church Matthew 16:18

INTRO: Jesus said that He would build His church. Joe T. Odle, late editor of the Baptist Record, said: "Christ established His church during His personal ministry here on earth. This is one of the things which he definitely said he would do..... Before Christ left the earth, He stated that the work He had come to do was finished (John 17:4; 19:30)" (14).

The history of the Elliott Baptist Church began on the sea shores of Galilee when Christ called out His church. I Cor 12:28: "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles...."

The Apostles here were all baptized by John the Baptist who had gathered the material for the first early church (Acts 1:21-22).

### I. THE DEFINITION OF A CHURCH

- A. A church is an assembly of baptized believers covenanted together to carry out the great commission (Mt 28:19-20).
  - 1. The Greek work translated church is *ekklesia* and means "a called out assembly."
  - 2. The church is not a mystical body.
    - a. It is not a universal visible church (Catholic).
    - b. It is not a universal invisible church (Protestant).
    - c. It is a local, visible assembly (Baptist).
- B. Over and over in the New Testament, the fact that the church is local and visible is attested to. When the church is spoken of institutionally, it does not denote a big universal church anymore than "the home" speaks of a universal home, or "the school" speaks of a universal school.
  - 1. J. G. Bow, writing for the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention says: "The term 'church' is never applied in the Scriptures to any aggregate of churches, either territorially or ecclesiastically" (21).
  - 2. "The churches in those early times were entirely independent, none of them subject to any foreign jurisdiction, but each one governed by its own rulers and its own laws" (Mosheim Vol 1 107).

### II. A HISTORIC CHURCH IS KNOWN BY WHAT IT BELIEVES

- A. Salvation by grace through faith in the virgin born sinless Son of God.

1. Eph 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved....."
  2. Ben M. Bogard states: "Salvation by grace is a fundamental Baptist doctrine. The scriptures are clear and plain on the doctrine..." (7).
  3. Salvation is clearly by grace (Rm 11:6-7). Works follow as a result of salvation (Eph 2:10).
- B. Redemption by the blood of Christ.
1. Eph 1:7 says: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."
  2. Redemption means to buy out of the market place, never to again be exposed to sale.
- C. Eternal security.
1. We cannot earn or merit salvation; thus, we cannot lost it.
  2. John 10:27-29 speaks of eternal security.
  3. The believer is not under condemnation. John 3:18 says: "He that believeth is not condemned...."
  4. The believer shall not perish. John 3:16 says: "Whosoever believeth on him shall not perish."
- D. Baptism by immersion for believers only by proper church authority (Acts 8:35-38).
- E. Church membership is for regenerate, baptized folks only (Acts 2:41-42).
- F. The Lord's Supper, a symbol of the death of Christ for the believer's sins, restricted to members of the local body in good standing.

### III. THE HISTORY OF A LOCAL CHURCH INCLUDES WHAT IT REPORTS

- A. A church is known by those who make up its membership.
1. Those who have gone before us are part of the history of this church.
  2. You are the present history of this church, and this church is known by the life you live.
  3. Let us be diligent to serve Christ and leave a testimony of faith for others.
- B. A church is known by its baptisms. Those who have confessed Christ and followed Him in believers baptism.

### IV. A CHURCH IS KNOWN BY WHAT IT SUPPORTS

- A. The local ministry is to be supported by tithes and offerings (Mal 3:10).
  - B. A church is known by the missionaries and mission works that it supports.
    - 1. Mark 16:15 says: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
    - 2. We are to support foreign missions; yet remember that, “the light that shines furthest shines brightest at home.”
- V. THE HISTORY OF ELLIOTT BAPTIST IS WRAPPED UP IN THE MESSAGE PREACHED
- A. The Gospel– I Cor 15:3-4.
  - B. The Blood, the Book, and the Blessed Hope.

CONCLUSION: Elliott has a bright future. Let us continue to hold to the historic Baptist faith.

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard, Jr.  
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Homecoming