

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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“...WHICH IS CALLED...”

Larry R. Ping II

Do you have a preferred commentary? One to which you most frequently turn? One which you might elevate over all others? It should be remembered, books known as commentaries are simply a collection of “comments” made about a certain book of the Bible by uninspired men.

The single, absolute best commentary you or I will ever hold in our hands is the Bible itself. Surely, you have heard, “Let the Bible be its own best commentary!” Such is absolutely true. One statement the Bible employs is, “which is called.” This statement is one which indicates a “Divine” commentary is about to follow. Consider some of these examples in God’s Word.

1) “...which is called Christ” (Matt. 27:17). There is no need to read a man-made volume to determine who Jesus is. The Bible does more than a sufficient job! Pilate said, “Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?” This comment about Jesus helps us appreciate the fact He is the

“anointed One,” or the “Messiah.”

2) “...which is called the Passover” (Lk. 22:1). It is not uncommon for the Bible to refer to the same place, person, or event by different names. Such is the case here, when the inspired physician refers to the Passover holiday as the “the feast of unleavened bread.” Luke’s intended audience most likely would have been unfamiliar with this term, hence he commented on it for their benefit.

3) “...which is called Calvary” (Lk. 23:33). This was the place of crucifixion, the place where Romans would carry out capital punishment. The tax-collector records this same event by saying, “And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull” (Matt. 27:33).

4) “...which is called Straight” (Acts 9:11). This was part of the instructions given to Saul as he came to Damascus after having met

the Lord. This Divine comment directed Saul to the main “east-west” thoroughfare in the city. It was said to have been a “wide and splendid street...a hundred feet wide, with colonnades separating the two footways on the side from the central road, and adorned with a triumphal arch.” If so inclined, one today can still trace the steps of this persecutor-turned-Christian!

5) “...which is called the sanctuary” (Heb. 9:2). The author of Hebrews is making reference to the tabernacle of old. In full it says, “For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all” (Heb. 9:2-3). It is reported, “But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people” (Heb. 9:7). The tabernacle, like the Lord’s church, was and should be “according to the pattern” (Heb. 8:5).

IS THERE JUST ONE CHURCH?

H.E. Phillips (May 1962)

Religious leaders of this generation would have all of us to believe that Jesus provided many churches from which each individual can have his "choice." It is not important to them to be a member of any particular church; it is only important to "accept Christ as your personal Saviour" by "faith only" and then join "the church of your choice." These expressions are so common that many think they are actually scriptural terms.

Those on Pentecost who "gladly received" the word that was preached to them by the apostles "were baptized," and when they "were baptized," "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). When these men heard Peter preaching the resurrected Christ, they inquired what they must do "for the remission of sins," and Peter told them to "repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (they had already believed the word which had been preached). When they had done this "the Lord added to the church" those who were receiving the remission of sins, or who were being saved.

To what church did the Lord add these saved people? He certainly did not add them to a church that did not exist at that time. Consequently, every denomination that came into existence since that day of Pentecost two thousand years ago

was NOT the one to which the Lord added the saved. If the Lord is still doing today what He did in Acts 2:47, He does not add the saved to any denomination today. But what church did exist on Pentecost? The answer to this question will solve our problem.

In Matt. 16:18 Jesus said, "I WILL build my church." He evidently did what He said He would do, for He was adding to it on Pentecost. From Pentecost on, the church is pictured as being in existence. Furthermore, the idea of more than one church is never given. I should like to give three reasons why we know the Lord authorizes and recognizes but one church.

1. The Bible says there is only one. This evidence cannot be denied. "So we, being many are one body in Christ" (Rom. 12:5). "There is one body, and one Spirit" (Eph. 4:4). This same book identifies what the body is, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, WHICH IS HIS BODY, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22, 23). "But now are they many members, yet BUT ONE body" (1 Cor. 12:20). "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in ONE body" (Col. 3:15). "And that he might reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) unto God in ONE body by the cross" (Eph. 2:16). The Bible says there is ONE, and BUT ONE, body or church.

2. Its Nature permits but one.

"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather TOGETHER in ONE all things in Christ" (Eph. 1:10). All that are in Christ are gathered together in ONE. Christ has made both Jew and Gentile ONE, which is called "one new man" (Eph. 2:14-15). "For by one Spirit are we ALL baptized into ONE BODY, whether we be Jews or Gentiles" (1 Cor. 12:13). All who have been baptized into Christ by faith "are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one" (Heb. 2:11). All the sanctified are in one body. All in Christ are to be of the same mind and speak the same thing (Php. 2:2; 1 Cor. 1:10). This is not possible of the many churches today. All who will be heirs of God must be in Christ, which means to be in his body. (Gal. 3:28-29; Eph. 3:6).

3. Other Inferences allow but one. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). What God requires of one man, He requires of all. By all doing the same thing, all will be in the same body. Christ made but one offering to sanctify all for all times (Heb. 10:12-14). Through His Blood one testament was sealed (1 Cor. 11:25; Matt. 26:28), one church was purchased (Acts 20:28). There is only one gospel (Gal. 1:8-9), one faith (Eph. 4:5; Jude 3), and one way (Jn. 14:6). It is not possible to have "many churches" in the light of these truths. Study them for yourself.

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm