

WHY BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

## Because It Is Scriptural In Organization

Spring 2012 Gospel Meeting

### BECAUSE IT IS SCRIPTURAL IN ORGANIZATION

- ✦ **A Monarchy**
- ✦ 1. Christ's church is a monarchy.
- ✦ Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. Eph 5:32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. NASU

### BECAUSE IT IS SCRIPTURAL IN ORGANIZATION

- ✦ **THE AUTONOMY OF THE CHURCH**
- ✦ 2. Jesus promised to send the apostles the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ **Matthew 16:18-20**
- ✦ **18** "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. **19** "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

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- ✦ 2. Jesus promised to send the apostles the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ **John 14:26**
- ✦ **26** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. NASU
- ✦ **John 15:26-27**
- ✦ **26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: **27** And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. KJV

### BECAUSE IT IS SCRIPTURAL IN ORGANIZATION

- ✦ ELDERS
- ✦ DEACONS
- ✦ MEMBERS

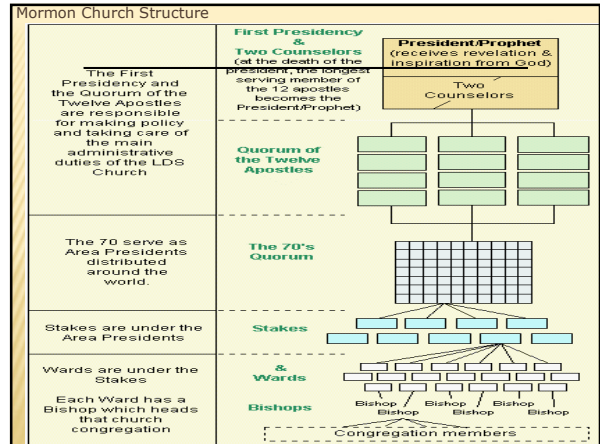
## ECCLESIASTICISMS

- ✦ 1. The denominations are ruled by their ecclesiastical or evangelic forms of government. They have chosen to be self pleasing for the people and determined to change the pattern in God's word. And they are ever changing to make corrections and become dull of hearing the Gospel.
- ✦ 2. Of course this power to legislate was never given to any group of uninspired men. Worldly churches have made Elementary, high schools and at the College level. Educating many away from the sound doctrine of God's word.
- ✦ 3. A rejection of the supreme authority of Christ is an outgrowth of modifications. Churches of men have built up their self governing organizations, forever losing the authority of God and are always shaming Christ and his church.

## LANCASTER - THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS / THE MORMON CHURCH

General Authorities

- ✘ First Presidency
- ✘ Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
- ✘ Presidency of the Seventy
- ✘ First Quorum of the Seventy
- ✘ Second Quorum of the Seventy
- ✘ Presiding Bishopric



## JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

- ✘ Elders
- ✘ Ministerial servants
- ✘ Baptized publishers
- ✘ Children
- ✘ Unbaptized publishers
- ✘ Students
- ✘ Associates

## CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

CITY OF REFUGE UCC, SAN FRANCISCO

Presiding Bishop & Senior Pastor  Associate Pastor - Outreach Ministries  Associate Pastor - Worship & Liturgies  Associate Pastor & Dir. Youth Guidance Ministries	Bishop Yvette Flunder Pastoral Team  Rev Phil Gray  Rev. Ann Jefferson  Rev. Dr. Toni Dunbar
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## LANCASTER - DESERT VINEYARD

Lead Pastor  Executive Pastor  Worship Pastor  Care Ministries Pastor  Children's Pastor  Tehachapi Mountain Vineyard Pastor  Marriage & Family Pastor	Compassion Ministry Pastor  Student Ministries Pastor  Women's Ministry Director Lay Pastor - VLI  Lay Pastor  Community Pastor  Men's Ministry Overseer  Latino Ministry Leader
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## LANCASTER DESERT VINEYARD OFFICE STAFF

Communications Coordinator  Vineyard Christian School Principal  Receptionist  Business Administrator  PCM Early Childhood Coordinator  Front Office Manager  High School Youth Coordinator  Administrative Assistant  CM Elementary Coordinator	Media Director  CM Administrator  Care Ministries Coordinator  Bookkeeper  Middle School Youth Coordinator  Childcare & Bus Coordinator  Senior Accountant & Payroll  Coffee Ministry Coordinator  Courtyard & Cafe Bookstore Manager
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### THE MAJOR/MINOR PROPHETS

- ✘ **Isaiah 9:6-7** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will <sup>1</sup>rest <sup>d</sup>on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of *His government or of peace*, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. NASU

### THE MAJOR/MINOR PROPHETS

- ✘ **Malachi 2:17-3:3** <sup>17</sup> Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment? <sup>1</sup> Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: <sup>3</sup> And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

### THE MAJOR/MINOR PROPHETS

- ✘ **Jeremiah 10:20-21** therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.
- ✘ **Jeremiah 5:26** For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. KJV

### PAUL SPEAKS CLEARLY OF A PATTERN

- ✘ Paul greets the Philippian Church, addressing all the members with the bishops and deacons.
- ✘ **Philippians 1:1-6** <sup>1</sup>Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: <sup>2</sup>Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, <sup>5</sup>For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; <sup>6</sup>Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath

### PETER SPEAKS OF A LIVE AND ACTIVE STRUCTURE

- ✘ **1 Peter 2:2-9** <sup>2</sup> As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: <sup>3</sup> If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. <sup>4</sup> To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, <sup>5</sup> Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. <sup>7</sup> Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, <sup>8</sup> And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. <sup>9</sup> But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: KJV

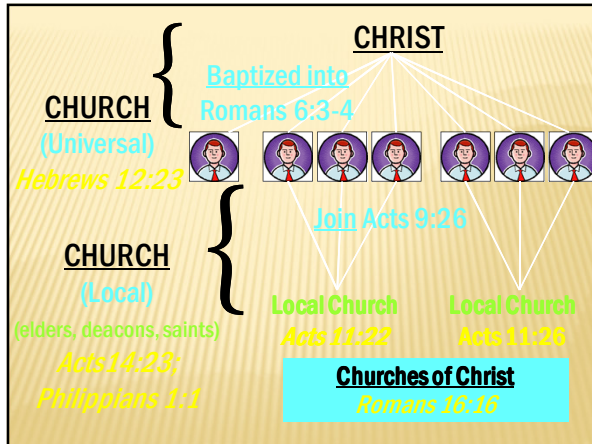
### WHAT IS THE CHURCH?



*ekklesia*: "to call out of" ...  
"the called out ones"

- An Assembly
- Israel, Acts 7:38
- Riot, Acts 19:32, 41
- Gov't body, Acts 19:39

**Body of the Saved**  
"Called out" of darkness by God, by the gospel  
*1 Peter 2:9-10; 2 Thess. 2:14*  
The Redeemed  
*Matthew 16:18*



**FOUR WAYS BY WHICH AUTHORITY MAY BE ESTABLISHED:**

- Direct Statement or Command (Precept)
- Approved Example (Example approved by an inspired man)
- Necessary Inference (A conclusion that is forced)
- The silence of the Scriptures

**ELDERS**

- ✘ 1. The Holy Spirit has taught that elders, bishops, overseers, presbyters, or pastors be ordained in every church. These are not many different offices, they are one and the same office and function.
- ✘ 2. It is the duty of bishops to:
  - + 1. take heed unto
    - ✘ (a) themselves
    - ✘ (b) all the flock
  - + 2. feed the church of the Lord
  - + 3. help the weak
  - + 4. exhort in the sound doctrine
  - + 5. convict the gainsayers
  - + 6. admonish the disorderly

**ELDERS**

- ✘ 2. It is the duty of bishops to (continued):
  - + 7. encourage the fainthearted
  - + 8. be longsuffering towards all
  - + 9. exercise the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God;
  - + 10. nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind, neither as lording it over the charge allotted to them but
  - + 11. make themselves "as ensamples to the flock"
  - + 12. visit the sick
  - + 13. watch in behalf of the souls of the members

**ELDERS/ BISHOPS**

- ✘ 3. The qualifications of bishops are as follows:
  - + 1. the bishop therefore must be without reproach
  - + 2. the husband of one wife
  - + 3. temperate
  - + 4. sober minded
  - + 5. orderly
  - + 6. given to hospitality
  - + 7. apt to teach
  - + 8. no brawler

**ELDERS/ BISHOPS**

- ✘ 3. The qualifications of bishops are as follows (continued):
  - + 9. no striker
  - + 10. but gentle
  - + 11. not contentious
  - + 12. no lover of money
  - + 13. one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity: (but if a man knoweth not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

## ELDERS/ BISHOPS

- ✘ 3. The qualifications of bishops are as follows (continued):
  - + 14. not a novice, lest being puffed up he fall into the condemnation of the devil
  - + 15. Moreover he must have good testimony from them that are without
  - + 16. having children that believe
  - + 17. not self-willed
  - + 18. not soon angry
  - + 19. a lover of good

## ELDERS/ BISHOPS

- ✘ 3. The qualifications of bishops are as follows (continued):
  - + 20. just
  - + 21. holy
  - + 22. self-controlled
  - + 23. holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching

## DEACONS

- ✘ 1. The duties of deacons
- ✘ 2. Those who are selected to do this work must have the following qualifications:
  - + 1. of good report
  - + 2. full of the Spirit
  - + 3. and of wisdom
  - + 4. must be grave
  - + 5. not double tongued
  - + 6. not given to much wine
  - + 7. not greedy of filthy lucre

## DEACONS

- ✘ 2. Those who are selected to do this work must have the following qualifications (continued):
  - + 8. holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience
  - + 9. first be proved
  - + 10. be blameless
  - + 11. even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things
  - + 12. Husbands of one wife
  - + 13. ruling their children and their own houses well

## MEMBERS

- ✘ Titus 2 is God's authority for today's Christian and is to be the pattern always for all that are in Christ. No exceptions, no exemptions.

## LOCAL CHURCH AUTONOMY

- ✘ Local church regulates its membership  
Acts 9:26-28; 18:27; Romans 16:1-2, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 5:4-7
- ✘ Plans the assembly of saints
  - + "Come together as a church," 1 Corinthians 11:18
  - + "In the church" (assembly), 1 Corinthians 14:28
- ✘ Providing for the needy among its own members.  
Acts 2,4,6
- ✘ Providing for the needy among saints elsewhere.  
Acts 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 8-9; Romans 15:25ff

## LOCAL CHURCH AUTONOMY

- ✘ Providing for the edification of members. Ephesians 4:11-16
- ✘ Providing for discipline. 1 Corinthians 5; Romans 16:17
- ✘ The work of benevolence
  - + Reason for giving:
  - + *“that there might be equality”*
  - + 2 Corinthians 8:14
- ✘ The work of edification. Ephesians 4:11-16 Build up itself in love.”

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## THE AUTONOMY OF THE CHURCH

- ✘1. We mean the autonomy of the local church or congregation.
- ✘2. The wisdom of God is seen in such an arrangement for his churches.
- ✘3. This simple organization, however, failed to satisfy many.

## CONCLUSION

- ✘ Why be a member of the church of Christ?
- ✘ Because it is scriptural in organization
- ✘ 1 Timothy 3:13 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. KJV

## CONCLUSION

- ✘ Why be a member of the church of Christ?
  - ✘ Because it is scriptural in organization
- Acts 20:26-32** <sup>26</sup> Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. <sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. <sup>32</sup> And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. KJV

## THE PLAN OF SALVATION

- ✘ 1. **Hear the gospel:** John 5:24; Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17; Revelation 3:20
- ✘ 2. **Believe:** Mark 16:16; John 3:16-18; John 11:25-26; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 11:6
- ✘ 3. **Repent of your sins:** Luke 13:3-5; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 2 Peter 3:9
- ✘ 4. **Confess Christ:** Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 John 1:9
- ✘ 5. **Be baptized for the remission of sins:** Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16; John 3:5; Acts 2:38-41; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-5; Galatians 3:26-27; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter 3:18-22; 1 John 5:5-12