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Introduction

Jesus promised He would build His church

- Matthew 16:18 "I will build **my** church"
- Mark 9:1 "... the kingdom of God ..."
- Acts 1:6-8 "will you at this time restore ..."
- Acts 2:1-4 "... filled with the Holy Spirit ..."
- He built it based on the truth of Peter's confession
 - Matthew 16:16 "You are the Christ"
- He declared His power to build it
- Matthew 16:18 "Hades shall not prevail
- His death didn't prevent Him from building His church
 - Acts 2:24-27 "... he is at my right hand ..."

2

Introduction

- His resurrection proved He was the Son of God
 - Romans 1:4 "... by his resurrection"
 - I Peter 1:3 "through the resurrection"
 - I Peter 3:18-21 "through the resurrection"
- The gospel calls the lost to salvation
 II Thessalonians 2:14 "through our gospel"
- Jesus adds to His church those who are saved when they receive His word and then abide in His teaching
 - Acts 2:41-47 "those who were being saved"

3

Introduction

- The Lord's church is a very important institution
 - Acts 20:28 "... with his own blood"
 - Ephesians 5:25 "as Christ loved ..."
- Most people are pleased with the church to which they belong
- The most important question however is, "Is God pleased with it?"
- If God is not pleased, all hopes of salvation are in vain
 - Micah 6:6-8 "Will the Lord be pleased"

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The Seven Churches of Asia
Ephesus

Revelation 2:4 – "you have abandoned"

Smyrna

Revelation 2:10 – "Do not fear ... Be faithful unto death"

Pergamum

Revelation 2:14 – "I have a few things against you"

Thyatira

Revelation 2:20 – "I have this against you"

The Seven Churches of Asia

Sardis

• Revelation 3:1-2 – "you are dead ... I have not found your works complete"

Philadelphia

 Revelation 3:8-10 – "I know your works ... you have kept my word about patient endurance"

Laodicea

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Revelation 3:14 – "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot"

God Wants A Church

That honors Christ as builder

- The Old Testament foretold of a King ruling over an everlasting Kingdom
 - Daniel 2:44 "... it shall stand forever"
 - Psalms 2:6-7 "I have set my King on Zion"
 - Psalms 110:1-4 "Rule in the midst of your enemies"
 - Isaiah 9:6-7 "... the government shall bg upon his shoulder"

That Jesus built

- Matthew 16:18 "... I will build my church"
- cf. Psalms 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house"

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God Wants A Church

That Jesus "pitched," the "true tabernacle" Hebrews 8:1-2 - "the Lord pitched, not

- man" (ASV)
- Hebrews 3:3-4 "... the builder of all things is God"
- cf. Matthew 15:13 "... will be rooted up"
- That does not honor any other man
 - Not John the Baptist
 - John 3:28-30 "I am not the Christ"
 - Not Peter the apostle • Acts 10:25-26 - "I too am a man"
 - Not angels • Revelation 22:6-9 – "Worship God"

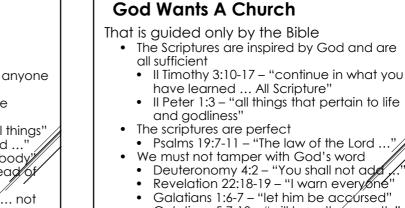
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God Wants A Church

That honors Christ as the head

- Christ has all authority
 - Matthew 28:18 "All authority ..." This authority is not shared with anyone
 - else in heaven or on earth
- Christ is the one and only head of the church
 - Ephesians 1:22-23 "head over all things"
 - Ephesians 5:23 "Christ is the head ..."
 - Colossians 1:18 "... head of the body" The Pope claims to be the earthly head of the church
 - Colossians 3:1-2 "where Christ is ... not on things that are on earth"

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• Galatians 5:7-10 – "will bear the penalty"

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The Way To Obey God • Hear the Word of God • James 1:21 – "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." Believe the Gospel message • Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." • Repent of your sins • Acts 3:19 - "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"

The Way To Obey God

- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - Romans 10:9-10 "... if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"
- Be immersed in water
 - Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"
- Remain faithful
 - Hebrews 3:12-14 "... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end"