Did Jesus Build More Than One Church?

Many try to settle salvation / church issues on basis of . . .

- **Personal opinion**
- **Relatives, living and dead**
  - **Not a new attitude –** Mt.16:13-18

Mt.16:13-18

13-14: each valued his own <u>opinion</u> . . .

15-16: disciples got it right: <u>same answer</u>, though all others were wrong

17: <u>explanation</u>: listen to Father, not flesh…

18: promise: rock…I will build…My church

19: keys (18:18).   Lk.11:52

20: apostles could not share information until endowed . . . (Jn.14-16; Ac.2)

I. Text Is Gramatically Incorrect

- "My church" (sg.) [plural used only of local congregations]

- "Against it" (sg.).   He carefully kept it singular

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

II. He Approves All Of Them

- Surely He would approve anything / everything He built.

- Mt.15:9, 13;   23:15

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

III. He Would Contradict Himself

- Denominational differences set them apart.

- Does Lord call one man to deny what He calls another to affirm?

  – Sprinkling / Pouring / Immersion Rom.6:4

  – Jim Jones – O. Roberts

  – Jimmy Swaggart

  Mt.16:18

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

IV. Scheme Contrary to Natural Law

- Lk.8:11, same seed produces same fruit.

- Gal.6:7-8, sow . . . reap

- Problem – Gal.1:6-9, different gospel

- Five preachers – same Bible – different names / beliefs / practices . . .?

- Five preachers – Acts 15 – same Bible – same names / belief / practices . . .!

| Paul | Barnabas | Peter | James | Silas |

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

V. He Would Be Head Of All Churches

- Ep.1:22-23, how many heads? …bodies?

Catholic doctrine:
(Head) (Head)
Body

Protestant doctrine:
(Head) (Head)…
(Body) (Body) (Body)

NT:
(Head: Christ)
Body

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

VI. His Blood Is Without Benefit

- Who died for Jim Jones' church? . . . ?

- Our <u>blood</u> is <u>in</u> our <u>body</u>.   Ac.20:28

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the <u>flock</u>, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the <u>church</u> of God which He <u>purchased with His own blood</u>.

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

VII. He Built Something He Opposed

- Jn.17:1-5, prayed for Himself

- Jn.17:6-19, prayed for disciples

- Jn.17: 20-26, prayed for all believers

"But denominations believe in Christ; this answers His prayer"

Father and Son did not disagree
Ph.3:16, no division, no denominations

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

VIII. There is Nothing in a Name

- But why do we all have different names?

- How do we react when called wrong name?

- Sign someone else's name to your check?

- Go down a street with any name?

[11] This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' [12] Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" – Ac 4:11–12

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

IX. No One Could Prefer One…

- Join two different denominations at same time – Baptist-Methodist?

- Many choose . . .
  - One closest to them . . .
  - Largest number
  - Most impressive architecture

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

X. Makes Jesus a Spiritual Polygamist

He who has the <u>bride</u> is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice… – Jn.3:29

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to <u>one husband</u>, that I may present you as a <u>chaste virgin</u> to <u>Christ</u> – 2 Co.11:2

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

XI. Makes No Difference In Belief…

- Does it matter what we believe, preach, practice?
  - Football team
  - Army unit
- Mt.15:2, 6-9

XII. He is Mistaken in His Addition

- Acts 2:47
  - Added together (not divided)
  - Put all in same body (not different ones)
  - Why not divide them into denominations?
- Denominations are divided…apart.

Mourner's bench

- Faith prays
- Penitent . . . Seeks salvation
- Yet, Mourner's bench (pray through)
- Prov.13:15
- 'Dies on the way to praying through…'??

If Jesus built more than one church . . .

XII. He is Mistaken in His Addition

- Acts 2:47
  - Added together (not divided)
  - Put all in same body (not different ones)
  - Why not divide them into denominations?

- Denominations are divided…apart.

When did Lord stop adding them
to His church and start putting them
into different denominations?

The Choice

"I am the way" (John 14:6)	"I did it my way" (Human preference)