

This little workbook was written at Bandon, Oregon in the summer of 1954. Since then, it has gone through numerous printings. After 43 years, its theme is still important.

This is the first revision that has been set on computer. An earlier printing was scanned to make this 1997 revision possible. We have sought to retain the “look and feel” of the earlier version to the extent that can be done with desktop publishing.

Since those early days, Oren and Betty Knowlton have moved on – to glory. Now they have an even clearer view of the Church in the Bible. Like the astronauts viewing earth from outer space, they now have the big picture.

2005 printing

ILLUSTRATED BY
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instrument. (Funk and Wagnalls Dictionary) W. E. Vine says in his *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* under Psalm; “Primarily denoted a striking or twitching with the fingers (on musical strings); then, a sacred song, sung to musical accompaniment, a psalm. Under “HYMN” he adds this note: “The psalmos (the noun of the verb form psallo) denoted that which had a musical accompaniment.” **125.** The elders. **126.** The spiritual. **127.** Any fault. **128.** No. Verse 11. Even the very carnal Corinthian church expelled the man who was living in willful sin. **129.** Both. **130.** That the spirit (of the expelled) may be saved. **131.** To keep others from being “leavened.” **132.** To test the church’s obedience to Christ. **133.** The Factious man. **134.** The false teacher. **135.** When he repents of his sin. **136.** The leavening action will set in and the church will become like Sardis, Revelation 3:1-5. **137.** Acts 2:45; 4:34-35; 6:1-6; 11:27-30 **138.** Because the Gentiles had received spiritual things from the Jews, they owed material things in return. **139.** Go make disciples, baptize, and teach them. **140.** Yes **141.** By the tithes and offerings of Christians who make up the kingdom.

GOD IS ACTIVE IN HIS CHURCH: **141.** The Holy Spirit. **142.** The Holy Spirit. **143.** The Spirit controlled the timing of the meeting. **145.** From the Spirit.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH: **146.** “In heaven and on earth.” **147.** God **148.** where Christ is, in heaven, **149.** *Theo-* God; *crato-* rule. God rules, not the people. See #143. **150.** The words of Christ through the apostles and prophets. **151.** Apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors. **152.** No, no one can meet these qualifications. **153.** No, as the gift was given by laying on of the apostles’ hands. **154.** Shepherd (Funk & Wagnalls) **155.** The ELDERS of the church. **156.** (a) Adam was 1st formed. (b) Eve was beguiled. **157.** Yes. **158.** He taught and baptized both individuals & groups. **159.** Set in order churches and appoint elders. **160.** Essential **161.** A bishop MUST have certain qualifications. **162.** No, “must” allows for no such opinion. **163.** If he cannot care for his family, he cannot properly care for God’s family. **164.** So he won’t be puffed up. **165.** One of obedience. **166.** The terms are used interchangeably. **167.** Yes. **168.** He is to be reprovved in the sight of all. **169.** Yes, he becomes a “partaker of other men’s sins”. **170.** To minister to the material needs of the church. **171.** Paul and Timothy — the evangelists’ writing. “Saints “ — members. “Bishops” — or elders. “Deacons” — servants of the church. **172.** Yes, human organizations are adding to the revealed pattern. Hebrews. 8:5 **173.** No. These are human substituted for either the home or the church. **174.** Return of Christ. **175.** Yes. **176.** They did not possess a “love for the truth.” We must love the truth of God’s Word and obey it regardless of our past belief or practice. The alternative is to believe a lie and be lost forever.

INTRODUCTION:

1. What statements in these Scriptures command us to study God's Word?

Matthew 11:29 "I _____"

Ephesians 5:17 "u _____"

2 Timothy 2:15 _____



2. According to Hebrews 5:11-14, do people become "dull of hearing" because:
- They tire of using what they learn?
 - They don't use what they learn?

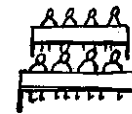


3. What price did Jesus pay for the church?

Acts 20:28 _____

John 10:11,15, 17 _____

4. What does the word *church* mean? (See the center chart)



Ponder: Based on this definition, how can we be "at church" while home watching a television church service?

5. Out of what is the church called?

John 15:19 _____

6. Should we be concerned about what **men say** or should we go by what the **Bible says** about the church (or any other subject)? Acts 5:29 _____



ANSWERS: 1. Matthew... "learn of me." Ephesians... "understanding what the will of the Lord is.," 2 Timothy... "Study to show thyself approved unto God," or "handling aright the word." 2. (1,) 3. He shed his blood; he laid down his life. 4. A called out assembly. 5. World 6. "We ought to obey God rather than men."

THE PICTURESQUE FIGURES: The figures of the church can each be developed into a complete lesson. For example the "household". Discuss the family features of the church, we are brethren with one Father. Discuss the family privilege of prayer or talking to the Father and having His care. The chastening, sonship, obedience, brotherly love, family name, method of birth and disinheriting can all be profitably discussed. We might also point out that steady progress should be made when these questions are used in class use to keep attention centered where it belongs and to keep the class from discouragement. 7. "Church" and "flock" are used interchangeably. 8. At the house of God. 9. "temple of God." 10. "House of God". 11. Decently and in order. 12. Both: Chief corner stone. 13. "lively (living) stones." 14. God 15. Christians 16. Through the Holy Spirit. 17. The household of faith. 18. No! Individuals in the Corinthian church made up the body of Christ locally. A multiplicity of churches is not meant. 19. Both: Head 20. One 21. Verses 18&19. 22. The Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus. 23. Yes. 24. The Kingdom

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH: 25. About 30 26. If the feast of John 5:1 was also a Passover (and there is strong reason to believe it is) then his ministry was mostly within the period limited by four Passoverfeasts or three years plus a short time before the first Passover of John 2:13. 27. "Thou art the head of gold." Said of Nebuchadnezzar. (606-536 B.C.) 28. That of the Medes and Persians (536-330 B.C.) 29. The Macedonian or Grecian. (330-60) 30. The Roman Empire . 31. The last or Roman Empire. 32. The stone (representing the Kingdom or church) "filled the whole earth." 33. It shall never be destroyed. It shall stand forever. 2 Peter. 1:11. 34. A mountain is a kingdom. 35. Jerusalem. 36. "All nations shall flow unto it." 37. God would write it in their hearts. 38. The New Covenant (testament) is the fulfillment of this Old Testament prophecy. 39. No. 40. The 10 Commandments. 41. We are under Christ. 42. The Kingdom of heaven is at hand. 43. Same. 44. Same. 45. The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. 46. At hand 47. No. 48. During the life time of some of his hearers. 49. Peter. 50. Repentance and Remission of sins. 51. No. 52. The 11 apostles. 53. The 12 apostles. 54. The same men were present on both occasions. 55. The 12 received the promised power from the Holy Spirit. 56. "Beginning from Jerusalem"... "Now there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews." 57. Peter was about to use the keys to "bind and loose", which he did by preaching. Some were loosed from

18. Does 1 Corinthians 12:27 show that God has many churches? _____
 Why not? (Who is addressed, churches or individuals?)

19. Using the figure of a body, what relationship does Christ sustain to the church?
 Ephesians 1:22-23 _____ Colossians 1:18 _____
20. How many bodies does Christ have according to Ephesians 4:4 and
 Colossians 3:15? _____
21. What verses in Matthew chapter 16 show the use of the terms
kingdom and *church* interchangeably? _____
22. What was the two-fold message of Philip the evangelist in Acts 8:12?

**Ponder: Encourage church leaders to teach about the church as well
 as the name of Christ.**

23. Is the kingdom of God on earth today according to Colossians 1:13?
 (Compare Revelation 1:6, 9.) _____
24. What is Jesus going to deliver up to God when He comes the second time?
 1 Corinthians 15:24 _____

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH:

25. How old was Jesus when he began to preach? Luke 3:23 _____
26. How long was Jesus' ministry? John 2:13; 5:1; 6:4; 11:55. _____

Note: A large number of Bible students believe John 5:1 refers to the Passover.

27. In Daniel's interpretation of the king's dream in Daniel 2
 (please read it), who or what was the head of gold?
 vs.38 _____



151. Noticing the punctuation of Ephesians 4:11 carefully, what were the original four
 authoritative offices of the early church? _____
152. Could we have apostles today according to the requirements in
 Acts 1:21-26? _____
153. Could we have prophets today in view of the way the gift was imparted?
 Acts 19:6; 8:18. _____
154. What is the original meaning of the *pastor*? _____
155. According to 1 Peter 5:1-2, who are the *shepherds* of the flock?

156. What two reasons does Paul give in 1 Timothy 2:12-14 for not
 allowing a woman to be a teacher of men?

157. Do these reasons still hold true? _____
158. What work did Philip do as an evangelist in Acts 8:12,35,38?

159. What work was the evangelist Titus to do according to Titus 1:5?

160. Does the word *must* mean: (a) should or (b) essential? _____
161. In what connection is *must* used in 1 Timothy 3:2?

162. Are the personal qualifications of the eldership a matter of opinion? _____
163. According to verses 4 and 5, why is he to be a family man?

164. According to verse 6, why must he be experienced?



40. What does Exodus 34:28 say the covenant is?

41. Are we under Israel's ten commandments today or the law of love in Christ?

Galatians 3:23-24. _____

42. What was the message John the Baptist preached in Matthew 3:2?

43. What was the message Jesus preached in Matthew 4:17?

44. What was the message the twelve were instructed to preach in Matthew 10:7?

45. In Luke 10:9 what was the message the seventy disciples of Jesus were to preach?

46. Were these, then, preaching that the Kingdom was actually present or merely at hand?

47. Was God's kingdom yet in existence in Matthew 26:29?

48. According to Mark 9:1, when would the kingdom of God had to have been established?

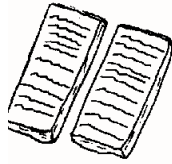
49. To what individual did Jesus say specifically he would give the keys of the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 16:18-19.

50. What two-fold message did Jesus say was to be preached from Jerusalem in Luke 24:46-47? R_____ and R_____.

51. Does Acts 1:6 show the kingdom of God to be established before Christ's ascension?

_____.

52. With whom was Matthias numbered in Acts 1:26?



127. From what sins does he need to be restored? _____

128. According to 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, are we to have fellowship with willful sin? _____

129. According to 1 Corinthians 5:4, who is to part fellowship with the sinner - the preacher, the church, or both? _____

130. According to the 5th verse, what is the purpose of withdrawing? _____

131. According to the 6th verse, what is another purpose? _____

132. What is a purpose according to 2 Corinthians 2:9? _____

133. What type of person is to be rejected from fellowship according to Titus 3:10-11? _____

134. What type of person is to be turned away from according to Rom. 16:17-18? _____

135. According to 2 Corinthians 2:6-7, when is the offender to be received again? (Compare question 98.) _____

136. What will eventually happen to a church that will not practice Bible discipline? (Consider 1 Corinthians 5:6). _____

137. Give some examples in the book of Acts where the early church helped its needy. _____

138. According to Romans 15:27, why were the Gentiles indebted to the Jews? _____

139. In Matthew 28:19-20, what three things did Jesus command? _____

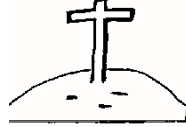
140. Did the early church obey Christ according to Col. 1:23? _____



THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH:

68. What was the purchase price of the church? (See question 3)

69. If Christ purchased the church, who owns it? _____



70. 1 Corinthians 6:20 reveals a purchase price for the individuals in the church.

What was it? _____

71. Was Peter the foundation of the church according to Matt. 16:16? _____

(Note carefully the footnote words in some Bibles:

Petros means a movable rock, while *petra* denotes a mass of rock.)

72. Give another verse of Scripture that shows Christ is the foundation of the church.

1 Corinthians 3: _____ (See question 12.)

73. What Bible verse shows who was to build the church?

Matthew 16: _____

74. How many churches did Jesus plan on building? Matt. 16:18 _____

75. How many bodies are there according to Ephesians 4:4? _____

76. What is the body according to Colossians 1:18? _____

77. How many flocks was Jesus planning on in John 10:16? _____

78. How many churches are God-authorized then? _____

79. Concerning unity, what did Jesus pray in John 17:20-21?

80. Some say religious division produces competition and is useful.

What message do we get from 1 Corinthians 1:10-13? Also consider

1 Corinthians 3:1-9. _____

81. What does the word "denomination" mean?



104. In the light of what the New Testament teaches on baptism, why did Jesus not require it of the thief with whom he was crucified? (A good clue will be found in Hebrews 9:16-17.) _____

105. How do we get into the body of Christ according to 1 Corinthians 12:12-13? _____

106. According to Hebrews 12:23, where is the church's true roll book? _____

107. What is this roll book called in Revelation 20:12 and 21:27? _____

108. How were believers added to the early church in Acts 2:47? (See question 14.) _____

109. Are we to adhere to the pattern God has given in the Bible? 2 Timothy 1:13 _____

THE TASK OF THE CHURCH:

110. What does the word *worship* mean in reference to God? _____

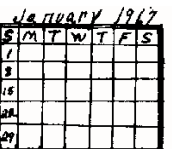
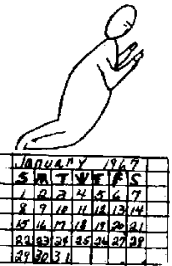
111. What days of the week should we worship? (In any form) Compare Acts 5:42 _____

112. According to Romans 10:17, why do we teach? To produce _____.

113. What are we commanded to do in Hebrews 3:13? _____

114. Is prayer an act of worship? _____

115. According to Acts 20:7, did the early church have the Lord's Supper once each week, once a month, or once a year? _____



WHAT THE **BIBLE** TEACHES ABOUT THE **CHURCH**

Church means “called out” – The church is the called out body of believers ruled by Christ.

PICTURESQUE FIGURES OF THE CHURCH -	Flock of God – Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2 House of God – 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:5,6 Household of Faith – Galatians 6:10 Body of Christ – Ephesians 1:22,23 Kingdom of God – Acts 8:12	THE WORDING USED IN SCRIPTURE	INDIVIDUALS – Christians: Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16 Disciples: Acts 11:29 Saints: Acts 26:10 Sons of God: Romans 8:14 Brethren: Romans 12:1	GOD IS ACTIVE IN HIS CHURCH	The Spirit raised Jesus from the grave: Romans 8:11; 1 Cor. 6:14; 2 Cor. 4:14 The Spirit inspired the Apostles: John 16:13; Acts 20:23; 1 Timothy 4:1 The Spirit inspired the Prophets: Acts 11:27,28 The Spirit enabled the writers to recall: John 14:26; Acts 11:16 The Scripture is the word of the Spirit: 1 Cor. 2:12-13; Ephesians 4:17; Hebrews 4:12 Miracles were performed by the Spirit: Romans 15:19; Hebrews 2:4 Timing of encounters are under the control of the Spirit: Acts 8:29; 10:17 The Spirit provides the strength for all believers to succeed: Ephesians 3:14-19; Philippians 4:13
THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH -	Predicted in the Old Testament: Dan. 2:44-45; Is. 2:1-4; Amos 9:11,12; 2 Samuel 7:12,13. Predicted by Jesus during his ministry: Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; 16:18,19 Accomplished after Jesus’ ascension: Jerusalem in A.D. 30 and recorded in Acts 2. Spoken of as in existence. Acts 5:11; 8:1, 3	THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH	CONGREGATIONS – Churches of Christ: Romans 16:16 Churches of God: 1 Corinthians 11:16 UNIVERSALLY – Church of the firstborn: Hebrews 12:23 Church of God: 1 Corinthians 15:9 Believers: Acts 2:44 Penitent (in a state of repentance): Acts 2:38 Baptized (immersed in water): Acts 2:38; 8:38	THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH	CHRIST IS THE HEAD: Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22 His word through Apostles and Prophets governs: Hebrews 2:3,4. LOCAL LEADERS – Evangelists: Acts 21:8; Ephesians 4:11 Elders: Acts 11:30 Must meet qualifications: Titus 1:5-9 Oversee their congregations: Titus 1:7 Teach their congregations: Titus 1:9 Protect their congregations: Acts 20:28 Deacons: 1 Timothy 3:8-13
IT IS DIVINE –	In ownership: Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 In foundation: 1 Cor. 3:11; Ephesians 2:20,21 In establishment: Matthew 16:18 Its builder: Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28	THE TASK OF THE CHURCH	TO WORSHIP GOD – Prayer: Acts 2:42; Philippians 4:6 Singing: Acts 16:25; Ephesians 5:19 The Lord’s Supper: 1 Corinthians 10:16 TO DEVELOP ITS MEMBERS – Teaching: Ephesians 4:11,12; Hebrews 5:12 Supervised by elders: Acts 20:26; Hebrews 13:17 Removing members in extreme cases: 2 Thessalonians. 3:6,14,15 Provide for its needy: Acts 4:34,35; 6:1		
IT IS UNIQUE –	Christ has but one church: Ephesians 1:22; 2:16 John 10:16 The pattern is laid out in Scripture. Hebrews 8:5		TO EVANGELIZE THE WORLD – Commanded by the Lord: Mark 16:15,16 Prayed for guidance: Colossians 4:2-4 Carried out by the early church: Colossians 1:23 Financed by tithes and offerings. 1 Cor. 9:1-14		
MULTICULTURAL -	It was so prophesied: Isaiah 2:2; Psalm 67:2 It was multi-cultural soon after being established: Ephesians 3:6; Acts 11:20				
IT IS HOLY –	Originated by a Holy God. 1 Peter 1:15,16 Every member’s goal is to be holy. 1 Pet. 1:14-16				
IT WILL BE TRIUMPHANT –	Christ will triumph over all: 1 Cor. 15:24-26 His church will triumph at the end: 2 Tim. 4:7,8				

SHE IS NOW AT WORK LOOKING FOR THE RETURN OF HER LORD

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