

“The Forgotten Fundamentals: The Church”

Selected Scriptures

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1. Jesus Promised to Build and Sustain the Church.

“I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it” (Matthew 16:18.)

“And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47; cf. 2:41; 4:4; 5:14; 11:24; 13:48; 14:21; 16:5; 16:14).

“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne...He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 3:21-22).

2. The Church Began at Pentecost and Was a Mystery in the Old Testament.

“by revelation there was made known unto me the mystery...which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, of which I was made a minister...to bring to light...the mystery which for ages had been hidden in God” (Ephesians 3:3, 5-7, 9).

“having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets” (Ephesians 2:20).

3. The Church Has Two Offices: Elders and Deacons.

“appoint elders in every city” (Titus 1:5).

“they appointed elders for them in every church” (Acts 14:23).

“Deacons likewise must be men of dignity...And let them also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach” (1 Timothy 3:8-10).

4. The Church Has Two Ordinances: Baptism and Communion.

“Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 2:38).

“do this in remembrance of Me,...For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:24-26).

5. The Church Has One Mandate: The Great Commission which Entails Making Disciples.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

6. The True Church Is Composed of the Redeemed.

“You must be born again” (John 3:7).

the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

7. The Church in History Is Contaminated with Weeds.

“Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather up the tares [weeds] and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn’ ” (Matthew 13:30).

“savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:29-30).

“preach the Word...For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate to themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths” (2 Timothy 4:2-4).

8. The Church’s Future Is Certain.

“He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus”(Philippians 1:6).

“Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who intercedes for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:34-37) .

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of

the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

“that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing” (Ephesians 5:27).

“Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may also be” (John 14:1-3).

“This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

“He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet” (1 Corinthians 15:25).

“he who has an ear. Let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 2-3).