

WHEN THE CHURCH BEGAN

STUDY OF THE BIBLICAL CHURCHES

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
- Colossians 1:18

1. The Churches

- a. *Def.* Church: God’s called out ones, congregation – made of saints (sanctified)
- b. The two sides: both right, both wrong – dispensational and covenant
- c. The issue: “Where are our instructions? What is our relationship to God?”
- d. Col 2:16-17 – 1) OT 2) things to come (NT) 3) But now – the body is of Christ

2. “Church in the Wilderness” - Acts 7:38

- a. Covenant theology says the church of today began with the saints of the OT
- b. Who: Exo 4:22 – Israel the firstborn (Deut 33:4 – Jacob’s congregation)
 - i. Exodus 27:20-21 – the tabernacle of the congregation of Israel
 - ii. Isaiah 2:2-3 – the house of the Lord/Jacob
- c. What: A kingdom- Exo 19:6; 34:10, 24; Deut 7:6; Deu 26:18; Isa 41:8
- d. How: The blood of a lamb - Exo 12:3-7
 - i. Baptism unto Moses – 1 Cor 10:1-2

3. “Church at Jerusalem” - Acts 8:1

- a. Mainstream Christianity says the church began with the New Testament
- b. Who: Disciples and the little flock - Matt 16:18 – I will build my church
 - i. Acts 2:44-47 – The Lord added to the church daily in the temple
 - ii. Matt 21:43, Luke 12:32 - kingdom given to “little flock” of Israel
- c. What: Matt 6:10 – kingdom come; Mat 19:27-28 (Acts 1:6)
 - i. Acts 2:36; 3:18-21 – Jesus the Lord and Christ
 - ii. Matt 28:20; Acts 15:1-2; 21:20 – zealous of the law
 - iii. Heb 8:1-2 –tabernacle not made with hands (Rev 21:2-3)
 - iv. Hebrews 10:25; Hebrews 13:17 – law keeping
- d. How: – Heb 9:15-16; John 1:29 – the Lamb of God; Rev 13:8
 - i. Baptism with water and spirit - Mark 1:4, Matt 3:11, Acts 2:38,

4. “Church, which is his Body” – Col 1:24

- a. Mid-Acts dispensationalists do not mix Israel into the church of this age
- b. Who: Jews & Gentiles Gal 3:28; Col 3:11
 - i. 1 Cor 3:16 – ye are the temple of the Holy Ghost
 - ii. Eph 5:23 - Christ is the head of the church
- c. What: Col 2:17 – the body is of Christ
 - i. Eph 1:22-23 – church which is his body
 - ii. Eph 2:6 – raised us up to sit in heavenly places
- d. How: 1 Tim 2:5-6 – a ransom for all
 - i. Baptism – 1 Cor 12:12-13, Romans 6:2-4, Col 2:11-12
 - ii. It began with Israel’s fall – Rom 11:11-13
 - iii. It began with Paul – 1 Tim 1:16; 1 Cor 3:10-11