

# Voice of Baptists

**"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**  
**Isaiah 40:3**

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## A VANISHING BREED?

by Calvin Perrigo

**"Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock."**  
**Acts 20:28**

### INTRODUCTION:

The church by Christ Jesus is in the world today to fulfill an honorable commission as ordered by Jesus himself. The Father and the Son are now seated in an exalted position as described in the scriptures. The Holy Ghost is that distinct divine person of the one God that relates to the church in this age. (see John 7:39; 14:26; 16:7. Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, and 22)

Any divine direction, leadership or advice that helps the church to reach its goal, (do the work required by the commission) will come through and by the Holy Ghost. In too many cases the Holy Spirit is expected to do things that were originally designed for man to do. Sometimes the Holy Spirit is accused of things that He is not guilty of directing or causing to happen. The need for this lesson has been prompted by the continued intervention of man into a very important phase of the work that was assigned to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Ghost had the privilege and responsibility in the New Testament age to have the final say when the church made selection of filling the office of apostle or pastor. The title of this lesson implies that this privilege and responsibility of the Holy Ghost may be in danger of becoming extinct. It is being replaced by an inferior and ineffective force, (unconcerned attitudes, personal desires and church politicians.)

Come now, and let us reason about some common, present day methods and trends and then be honest with one another and with our Lord. How are we handling the placement of pastors in the Lord's church today? Is it really in harmony with the New testament pattern?

(Continued on Page 4)



## ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRST CHURCH

by W.T. Russell  
Nashville, TN

You have probably heard it said, concerning the time of the establishment of the Lord's church, that it is sufficient to be able to prove that it had its origin during the personal ministry of Christ on earth. This might be sufficient in order to meet the critics who claim the church had its origin on the first Pentecost after the resurrection, but I am not satisfied just to affirm this and pass on.

Ekklesia -- the Greek word from which we get the word church, is used in the New Testament one hundred and fifteen times, and is used in the singular to designate a local congregation, or the church institution, seventy-six times. It is used three times to designate a worldly assembly.

The word Ekklesia is composed of two Greek words -- Kalein, to call, and ek, out of. Therefore the word literally means, the called out. The word in the scriptures is never applied to a hierarchy, whether civil or religious, such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church or the Episcopal Church. Such use is a gross abuse of the word Ekklesia.

We give here the literal definition of the word church as used in connection with the New Testament Church: A church of Christ is an assembly of baptized believers joined together in the doctrine and fellowship of the gospel. A.P. Williams said such a definition "is exhaustive, and final, and defies criticism."

Here we want to establish the fact that Jesus had called out company during his personal ministry, which was associated with him and under his authority, to which he gave the world-wide commission. I call attention here to the prayer of Jesus, recorded in the

(Continued on Page 2)

## SPECIAL SERVICES

### REVIVAL

Bethel Baptist Church of 222 E. Epler Ave., Indpls., IN will begin revival services Sunday, October 5th. All members and Pastor Eugene Brown send everyone a welcome.

### FELLOWSHIP MEETING

East Side Baptist Church of East St., Franklin, KY will host this special service on Saturday night, October 11th at 7 p.m. Brother James Gibbs of Carthage, TN will preach the message. YOU are invited!

### DEDICATION SERVICE

Bethel Baptist Church of 222 E. Epler Ave., Indpls., IN will dedicate their new sanctuary on Sunday, October 19th. The Wilburn Family of Carthage, TN will bring special singing.

### ORDINATION

The Nyland Baptist Church of Oxnard, California will meet on October 26th at 2 p.m. to consider ordaining Brother Kenneth Hackett to the gospel ministry. All ordained ministers and deacons are invited along with everyone.



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## ESTABLISHMENT

Continued from page 1

17th chapter of John, "I have manifested thy name to the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me...I have given them thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world." John 17:6 That these were the called out, the church, who dares to question.

Again, Jesus said that a company or congregation actually existed and that it was "clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." Jn. 15: 3,4. We understand the meaning of the word clean in 2 Cor. 5:17, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." Now, of this company, now clean, and they were in Christ, therefore new creatures: could it have been anything but the church? Jesus made but one exception, and that was Judas when he pronounced him not clean in John 13: 10, 11. He said, "Ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who would betray him; therefore he said, ye are not all clean."

That the company was secure and permanent is seen by the statement made by Jesus in John 18: 8,9, "I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: that the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none." Unless Jesus prayed a prayer amiss and not of faith when he prayed, "Keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, these had heard the word, were called out and under the control and authority of Jesus. They were clean, they were in Christ, they were new creatures, none of them were lost, and they were given by the Father to Jesus.

It was of the company that Jesus sent out the twelve on a limited basis, and gave

them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases, and to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God; John 9: 1-6 It was also of this company that Jesus sent out the seventy; 2 and 2 together into every city into which he himself would enter, Luke 10: 1-12. It also follows that the unlimited or worldwide commission was given to this same called out company as a firmly established institution which would never be destroyed, which Jesus said he would be with always even unto the end of the world. Matt. 28: 18-20.

By looking to John 4:1, we learn that Jesus authorized this company to baptize during his personal ministry. "Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, though Jesus baptized not, but his disciples." This baptism was done by the authority of Jesus. Into what do you consider these baptized? There is just one answer unless we want to surrender the ground to the General Baptist, as well as others. They were baptized into the church.

It was to this same company that he gave his Supper during his personal ministry. Luke 22: 19,20 tells how he gave them the bread and the wine, and told them to observe this Supper until he comes back to receive them to himself. Naturally these members could not carry out this order, because of death, but Jesus said the gates of hell would not prevail against that institution which he left in the world. So this institution was here when the Supper was given.

That the church was organized is seen by the fact that the company of disciples came at the call of Jesus into the mountain where he gave that company a gift. This gift was the apostles. The record in Luke 6 tells us that of them (disciples) he chose twelve, who also he named apostles. He did not set up or start the church on the mountain; but he gave that church, that called out company a special gift while they were on the mountain. And this company, this called out congregation that went to him on the mountain, from which company he had chosen the apostles, came down from the mountain with him and were recognized as a distinct company from the multitude of people that were gathered at the foot of the mountain. So we read, "And he came down with them (apostles) and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples and a great multitude of people." This not only distinguishes between the called out company and the multitude of spectators, but it also distinguishes between the ones Christ had chosen as apostles and the company out of which he had chosen them.

This is in harmony with 1 Cor. 12:28, where it says, "God hath set some in the church, first apostles." I affirm and maintain that you could not place a bench, a piano, a song book, a bible, a pulpit or anything else in this meeting house before the house is

here. You could not confer a gift upon an individual unless the individual exists. It is equally certain that Jesus could not have set the apostles in the church unless the church was actually there when he set them in.

The argument is made sometimes that the apostles were the foundation stones of the church, using Eph. 2:20 to support their claim. Let us see if this fits, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone." Now if the apostles are the foundation so are the prophets, which anyone should see. This scripture simply teaches that the church is built upon the same foundation that the apostles and prophets are on, and that foundation is Jesus Christ. Also, Rev. 21:14 is sometimes used to support this claim. "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." Now, two verses above that says, "And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel." Both of these scriptures refer to the wall of the city and not to the city itself. Then what is the answer? A wall built around ancient cities were built for protection: therefore, the apostles were given to the church as protectors and guards of the ordinances, the rules of government and discipline, and the delivering of these to newly organized churches until the recording of the perfect law of liberty, which was the New Testament; Paul said, "When that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." 1 Cor. 13:10 When the New Testament was completed, the office of apostle ceased.

That these were gifts is clearly set forth in Eph. 4:11, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, phophets; and some evangelists; and some teachers." The 12th verse tells what for: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Therefore, we contend that the body of Christ, the church, was already instituted when the apostles were placed in. Now let us read 1 Cor. 12:28 with the interpretation some have placed on it and see what we come up with. "And God hath set some members in the church, first members, apostles; second members, phophets, third members, teachers; after that miracle working members; then members with the gift of healing, helper members, governing members, members with different tongues. You see the disruption of harmony when this interpretation is placed on this scripture. Please note that the last gift to go into the church was that of tongues, and that went in on the day of Pentecost. All the rest had to go in before that day, therefore, the church was organized and abundantly equipped before the day of Pentecost.



That this company was composed of saved people, actually saved, before Christ died on the Cross is seen by the fact that their names were written in heaven. "Rejoice not, because the devils are subject unto you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20

This company actually had the Holy Spirit during the ministry of Christ, Matt. 10:19, 20. "When they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak; for it shall be given to you in that hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."

Some were in the kingdom, and some were outside during the personal ministry. Mark 4:11, "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without; all these things are done in parables." This language is senseless unless the disciples were in the kingdom then and the rest of the world were on the outside.

Jesus had all authority while here on earth; Matt. 7:28, 29, "And it came to pass when Jesus had ended his sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority." Then in the great commission, Jesus said, "All power, (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations." Matt. 28: 18-20.

Jesus had his flock while on earth Matt. 26:30-33, "this night the shepherd shall be smitten and the flock scattered." Peter said the flock is the church, so it must have been there, else it could not have been scattered. 1 Peter 5:3.

When Jesus stepped on the cloud and went back to the Father, he left his house. He had no earthly dwelling place to call his, so his house was the church. "The son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye...therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at evening, or at midnight, or at the cockcrow, or in the morning." 1 Tim. 3:15, "The house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Paul confirms the fact that the house is the church, so it must have been here or Jesus could not have left it.

The affairs of the kingdom were turned over to the church by Jesus as he was leaving the world. Luke 22:29, "I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me." Notice: Jesus did not say, I will appoint unto you, a kingdom at some future time. When Jesus turned over the keys to the kingdom, he gave the holder of the keys possession and authority. Matt. 16:19.

Jesus told the Jews, who were exclusive members of the first church, that the kingdom

would be taken from them and given to the Gentiles. Matt. 21:43 "The kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits." Notice "shall be taken from you." How could you take anything from me that I did not possess?

In Psalms 22:22 it is prophesied that Jesus would sing in the midst of the church. Matt. 26:30, "They sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives."

The tabernacle set up in the wilderness was a type of the church. The tabernacle, you will notice, was completely set up before the sacrifice was offered. The sacrifice, of course, was a type of the sacrifice of Christ. This being true, it follows, that if the type is fulfilled, and is a true picture of the church, and the priesthood was a type of Jesus Christ, and the sacrifice was a picture of the sacrifice of Christ, then, the church was in existence when Christ died on the cross. We must acknowledge that after the sacrifice was made, the High Priest took the blood of the sacrifice through the holy place (type of the church) into the Holy of Holies (type of heaven itself) and sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat. Unless the picture is a false one, and the type failed of fulfillment, then Jesus set up his church, offered himself in sacrifice, then took his own blood through the church into heaven. Read the first four chapters of Leviticus to find the type set forth.

How can we know, and how can we be sure that the tabernacle was a type of the church? We know it by reading Hebrews 9:21, that after establishing a perfectly completed tabernacle, then Moses took the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkled it upon the tabernacle: and the vessels of the ministry. Also read Hebrews 8:2 "A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man." This sets forth Christ as High Priest and Minister of the Sanctuary in heaven as well as Minister of the true tabernacle (the church) which he set up. Notice Hebrews 10:1, where it says that these ceremonial services were a shadow of things to come.

To those who so dearly love to postpone the setting up of the church until Pentecost, let us say with Jesus, "When he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall ye say, Lo here! or Lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within (in the midst of) you." So it was there at that time. Had it come on the day Pentecost or even on the mountain, it would have been with observation, and I say, with much observation.

Jesus was called Beelzebub (Prince of devils) during his personal ministry. Matt. 10:25, "If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how are much more shall they call them of his household?"

Now, we have already defined the church to mean a company of baptized believers, called out and joined together in the doctrine and fellowship of the gospel. I shall tell you when I believe that company became the visible, organic, called-out assembly.

First, let us go to Acts 1:21, "Wherefore, of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection." If this does not express the fact that Jesus had a called out company which had been with him all the time during his personal ministry on earth till the very day he was taken up from them, it says nothing.

At about the age of thirty years, and after his baptism by John the Baptist, Jesus entered into his ministry. The first thing he was driven of the Spirit into the wilderness where he underwent the temptations of the devil and overcame him. Here he spent 40 days and 40 nights; Mark 1:14, "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

"Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net in the sea...And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men;" Then what happened? He went on a little further and they came to James, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, and straightway he called them and they left their father Zebedee and went after him. Mark 1: 16,17 Here, we have the names of the called out, together with Matthew who was called a little later, the account of which is recorded in Mark 2:14.

It does not matter how many more were added to this number, for with only five, Jesus had a called out company of baptized believers. This material was prepared and made ready for him by John the Baptist. All Jesus had to do was call it together. We would not have you think in terms of a formal organization such as we have in organizing a church today when thinking of the setting up of the first church. There was no such thing. Jesus simply called the material together and he had his church. See Matt. 18:20.

## REVIVAL

**Faith Baptist Church, Oct. 12 - 19** 18000 Glendale, Roseville, Michigan. Pastor Dwayne Greer will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Everyone is invited to the services each evening at 7:30 p.m.

## A VANISHING BREED

(Continued from Page 1)

LESSON TEXT: Acts 20:28

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE OF PASTOR:

Perhaps the position of a pastor is not recognized in the proper light in this age. How important is the work of a pastor according to New Testament guide lines? The church by Christ Jesus belongs to Christ. It is his by ownership; he paid for it in full, with his own blood, having given himself for it. (Acts 20:28 and Ephesians 5:25) This one truth alone puts a great value on the church. The assigned work of the church adds to the true worth of the body of Christ.

Jesus gave the gift of pastor to the church when he ascended to the Father (Ephesians 4:8-11) for the perfecting of saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of his body left on the earth. As a feeder of God's flock the pastor holds a very important position in the structure and function of the Lord's church. Without proper nourishment and care all living things will become weakened and must eventually die.

The Lord's lambs and sheep are to be fed the word of God by the pastor. The pastor has been given that privilege and responsibility by the Lord himself. (see Acts 20:28 again and refer back to the reading lesson, John 21:1-17 also) The Holy Spirit placed pastor will give his life for the sheep before he will allow them to go hungry and suffer from malnutrition. Pastors that have been placed by other methods may react differently - the hireling may flee! providing for himself instead of the flock. The Holy Spirit placed pastor will provide food from a menu prepared and supplied by the Lord and will serve it in a way so that it will be taken and digested for proper growth and service.

Don't take the job of pastor too lightly! The Lord considers it a very important gift that he gave unto the church. (see Revelation 1:16 and 20) Take heed therefore as to where and how you feed the flock of the Lord.

### IN LIEU OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INFLUENCE: (Jeremiah 2:13)

Let us consider some common methods used when a church is faced with pastoral changes. One of the most common questions asked when a pastoral vacancy occurs is: "Who can we get?" Another question is heard frequently during the early hours of the vacancy: "Who is available?" Many church members spend time with thoughts or questions such as these: "Who could we find that would move on the field?" "Who is financially able, so it would not work a hardship

on us or him?" "We can't afford him." "He is too young." "He is too old." "He would never give up his present work." "He is happy where he is." "Is he happy where he is?" "We have a lot to offer a pastor." "We will have to get one without any experience." "We must have an experienced pastor."

**THE PULPIT COMMITTEE:** Some churches employ the services of a 'pulpit committee' when looking for a pastor. This committee is chosen by the church from the church. The purpose of the pulpit committee is to relieve the church of the responsibility of the small details that are always present when looking for a pastor. These details include: contacting prospective applicants, arranging appointments for trial sermons, recommending or rejecting certain applicants. The pulpit committee may invite church members to submit names of preachers they feel would take the church or make them a good pastor. The pulpit committee may seek outside information on candidates for the office of pastor. The pulpit committee can push hard for their favorites and they can play down those 2nd or 3rd choices. Pulpit committees may recommend one or more men to the church for their consideration. Do churches call a pastor that the pulpit committee would not recommend? It would be a rare circumstance indeed.

**FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:** Some churches use opportunities as a method to attract a preacher. Young preachers are often contacted with this enticement: Pastor our church and get some experience; We will consider going full time if you will take our church; We are small but you have to start somewhere; It may be the opportunity of a life time; (a now or never proposition); We will change our meeting time if you will come. The preacher may entertain these and similar reasons as he ponders the approach of some church member toward his pastoring their church.

**INFLUENTIAL PASTORS:** Churches (or members of churches) often turn to former pastors or other influential preachers for advice, recommendation or guidance in the selection of a pastor. Questions often go in this direction: "Can you recommend someone?" "What do you know about Bro. \_\_\_\_\_? Would he make us a good pastor?" "Do you think he would leave his present work?" "Would you put in a good word for us?"

**PERSONAL PREFERENCE:** Personal preferences are very common and are a strong influence in the selection of a pastor. It would probably be the last method to fall under the Holy Spirit's influence. My personal feelings are often expressed in the following statements: "I want Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ for pastor." "I felt led (makes little difference by what)." "We had a good meeting when he helped us." "My dear departed really liked Bro.

\_\_\_\_\_." "Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ can build up our church." "He has a way with young people." "He can get our building debt paid off." "My family would come to church to hear him." Check for these and other methods of calling or placing a pastor in the New Testament and see how big your list becomes. **WAYS TO PRESERVE THE BREED:** (Isaiah 55: 8-9)

If we agree, due to the evidence just presented, that the Holy Spirit placed pastor may be an endangered species, how do we prevent his extinction? This task may not be as easy as expected! A spirit is not visible to us and due to there being two invisible forces (God for good, Satan for evil) that wage war for our worship and services, we must be able to discern these two influences. We can have ears to hear the Holy Spirit. We should be able to recognize Satans attempt to lead us astray. Those with ears to hear are commanded to hear what the Spirit has to say to their respective churches.

The Lord's sheep know his voice and do not follow the voice of a stranger. The Lord's sheep even flee at the sound of a strange voice, (see John 10:5). Remember the point of salvation? God does not change! Our hearing may have become somewhat impaired due to many things but the familiarity of that still, sweet voice is still unmistakably clear to the delivered soul. Have you been saved? Then tune your ear to hear what the Holy Spirit has to say to you.

The Holy Spirit placed pastor can be saved from extinction by the churches staying within the bible given qualifications and praying effectually and fervently for the Lord to make a choice according to his will. Study Acts 1:15 thru 26 for the scriptural way to make choices as a group (the church). Let Him, that knows the hearts of all men make his choice. Let your thoughts travel toward this great truth; **THE LORD OWNS THE CHURCH, HE IS THE HEAD OF IT, HE IS THE LAW GIVER AND HE DOES NOT MAKE MISTAKES!**

The Holy Spirit placed pastor can be saved from extinction if the available preacher will conform to God's way and let the searching churches know from the first contact that it is a Holy Spirit placement and that they plan to abide by His direction only and that they will not be swayed by any other influence. **PRAYER, FASTING AND MORE PRAYER WILL BRING HELP FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE SPIRIT IS INVOLVED, GIVE HIM HIS DUES. WHEN QUALIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MET, LET THE CHOICE BE MADE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE CHURCH IS RESPONSIBLE TO KNOW THE QUALIFICATIONS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLACEMENT. BEWARE OF INFERIOR SUBSTITUTES, SATAN HAS A STOREHOUSE FULL OF THEM!**