

# John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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## ONE MORE TIME, WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Almost daily in major newspaper publications we see an article which says something about actions of the “church,” referring to the Roman Catholic Church based in Rome. Whenever something happens in the world that seems to require a word from the religious side, reporters seek out a priest or other representative from that organization or a representative of one of the other religious organizations, such as the Methodist or the Presbyterian or the Lutheran or the Baptist churches or others.

But the “CHURCH” of the Lord Jesus Christ is not any of these organizations. It is the collection of individuals who have truly accepted Jesus as their Lord. It is in effect the collection of people living and dead throughout the world who have been called out of the world into a new society of which Jesus is the head. That society is the Kingdom of God.

That is why I capitalize the word CHURCH. This is the true CHURCH. It has nothing to do with buildings or man-made organizations and all the man-made rules of operations and procedures. I write about this often, because so many are so confused. Oh, certainly, there are some true believers in Jesus in these churches. But there are also large numbers of people who seem to think they will be in God’s Kingdom, in Heaven just by attending their church weekly, by observing all the requirements of those churches. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Jesus came to set people free, to bring truth. He spoke directly and boldly against the formal religious structure of his day and specifically the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, who were the religious leaders of his day. See especially Matthew chapter 23. They were not his CHURCH and they were misleading the people and not focusing on the true issues of God such as love and mercy and what God wants.

We live in a similar world to that of Jesus when he was here, and we have our own Pharisees and teachers of the law misleading the people. There are so many lost sheep, some who never seriously begin paying attention to the Bible and Jesus and the truth, some who just immediately accept what the pope or some other denominational leader says or does without ever thinking or working out their own relationship with the Lord.

No individual and no organization can get a person into the Kingdom of God. It is all about a one on one relationship between a person and the Lord. It is between you and Christ.

We are approaching the end of this age as serious believers in Jesus know. The signs are everywhere. Among all those who call themselves Christians are two groups who are being divided out – those who truly know the Lord and those who do not but do follow the rules and regulations of today’s Pharisees. Now, there are true shepherds of Christ working today, outside of organized churches and some inside those organizations. But false doctrines and procedures and rules do abound in many places. It is time for each person to take responsibility for his life – his long-term life. Now is the time. Now is the day of salvation.

You need to know Jesus! You need to know the truth. If you need a place to start, get some of our CDs such as the three part *WHAT DID JESUS DO?* or the key *JUST HOW DOES ANYONE EVER REALLY GET INTO HEAVEN?*, or *THE HOLY SPIRIT*, or *WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST* or choose from many more including several on Jesus' imminent return. You can request these by telephone or mail or over our web site. You can also watch many programs on key subjects of God on the web site.

## **Awards in Heaven and on Earth**

Today I noticed that a man I worked with many years ago in the business world before God called me to a different life had won a lifetime achievement award from his college. It was an impressive write-up and chronicled his various academic and business pursuits.

Now his business pursuits had eventually wound up in a highly technical chemical area, one in which he had excelled and no doubt had contributed to the economy and to the supply of needed chemical products. And the university was effusive in praise.

I certainly am happy for this person. As I remember, he was a really good man and one I liked quite a bit. He was soft spoken and considerate of others.

But then I thought about this lifetime award. It reflected his excellence in the business/technical pursuits in which he had been engaged. Technical and business work. Certainly a positive for the secular world. Certainly a help for our standard of living.

I reflected further. Awards are always being given out to people who excel in science and business, or are business community leaders and such. And of course there are always those awards so lavishly presented by the entertainment and sports communities to their own members.

But where are the awards handed out for those called by God, who have left the pursuit of high income and fame, who have toiled in various areas throughout the world, maybe in Christian writing, maybe in far-flung evangelical mission work presenting the truths of God to people who have never heard, maybe in ministry work at home presenting God's truths in yet another way to those who just don't know. Or what about those truly called pastors leading small and middle size and once in a while large flocks? So many called by God working in relative obscurity, even if they do at times stand in front of groups or appear on TV or radio. So many living with little or even no cash income, getting by as God provides, perhaps with a working spouse. So many working anonymously as God has called them to help in his pushing forward the Kingdom. So many working in a daily job so they can minister and carry God's word at night and on weekends. Some truly risking and even giving their lives in carrying the truths of the Lord forward in the world.

Where are the awards for these people? They are not influencing technical or business issues, or providing entertainment. They are affecting peoples' lives, the deepest parts of human beings - how they live, how they relate, how they deal with the so difficult human issues of life, and most important, how they relate to God and where they are going to spend eternity. There is no comparison of the importance of the efforts of these people to that of the other fields.

Other than for the rare one or two nationally known such persons, such as a Billy Graham, where are the awards? Here's the answer: There may be few hundred fold cash awards for them in this world, but for most the hundred

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fold awards here are deep inside and of another type - a chance to influence and change lives for the better, an opportunity to see first-hand God at work in miracles and healings and the leading of lost persons to himself, an opportunity to work with God in all that and to be used by God in all that. Awards such as the world considers them? Not in this field. And then the real award? Or we should say rewards? They are in heaven, in the kingdom of God with the Lord, the rewards so laid out in chapters 2 and 3 in Revelation and elsewhere for those that overcome and persevere. The hundred fold awards in the next world – that’s where these people are honored.

## **ZOMBIES!!!**

Not long ago we experienced the horrible terrorist bombings at the finish line of the Boston marathon race. While following the reports on that, I was astounded to hear announcers more than once say such things as “Who would do such a thing?”

I wondered, have they been living on the planet these past several years? Have they not seen the horrors and atrocities happening throughout the world?

By now, you would think, even the dullest of individuals would have realized there are many really evil people on this earth, really evil. How anyone can ask such a naïve question is beyond me.

This brings to our minds the statement in the Bible that the devil has blinded the minds of unbelievers. So that would be one answer for their asking such a question.

I was reminded of this in another way later on. One of the news networks had sent a reporter out into a general crowd of people just to see what people are aware of.

This reporter had a petition he was going to get people to sign, and he approached all sorts of people – young, old, someone holding a baby, and so on. And he said something like this “We have a petition here to repeal the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment so that all those conservative people won’t be able to block gun control. If you would, just sign here.” Something like that. And the people just listened and signed. They signed to repeal the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States! It was amazing. The reporter later in talking to the studio said it was like talking to zombies.

Is that what so many Americans have become today – zombies? Maybe so. How else can you explain some of the people elected to high office? The acceptance by the population of the steady plodding to bankruptcy and the eroding of basic freedoms? The accepting of actions and words from high officials that just do not make sense, that contradict reason and the fundamentals and values of the country?

Amazing. Zombies.

That’s it. Zombies.

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## YOUR ROLE IN THIS MINISTRY

Pray for us. Volunteer your time as appropriate and needed and if possible. And provide financial support as God guides you and you are able. It has always been true that there are senders and there are those who go and do. Those who minister and “do” cannot long “do” without the support of the senders, people like you who provide the three things I noted.

This ministry reached two new geographic areas just the last week of December, and I am always amazed at how the writings and the teaching CDs and videos are being read and seen and heard in so many areas. Requests for material continue to come, and requests from far-flung ministries for our help and materials and even for us to come and hold crusades. So far we have not gone the crusade route in distant lands as God has so many other things for us to do and has not released us for that. We are spending a great deal of time now looking and meditating and praying over his assignments and how to step further in all he has revealed and called.

Each of us should feel privileged that God has allowed us to live in this time, the period of the beginning of the third millennium, the time of the Lord calling out his true CHURCH, the period of the return of the Lord to earth. What we and our children will see is beyond words to express. And the wonder of it all is that it is all going to be very soon.

*Always remember to stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon.*

*May you live in the blessings of God always.*

**John**

PS – You might note this newsletter is taking on more and more the format of a short magazine, or journal. Let us know if you have any comments or suggestions. This format allows us to include more diverse articles and teaching materials, and to comment even more on the key happenings of our day and how they fit into this amazing time we are living in.

*[Contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation.]*

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