

## ***John Newlin Ministries, Inc.***

*- realizing the power of a life in Christ-*

# **ARE THERE ANY REAL CHURCHES OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TODAY?**

Good question. Really good question.

From the beginning of our ministry I have from time to time been asked by someone where is there a real church I can go to. You know what they mean. A church that teaches the full gospel, that teaches the reality of the Holy Spirit today and operates in the gifts of the Spirit, a church that teaches Biblical prophecy and the imminent return of the Lord. Often, I do not know such a place in the community they are asking about, or perhaps sometimes maybe one or two that might have some aspects of that.

The real CHURCH of Jesus Christ is that group of people in the world who truly believe in the Lord and will be going with him when he returns to collect his sheep. It is not a brick building or fine robes or any of that. That is the true CHURCH.

Beyond that there are all these buildings and denominations and such that call themselves churches. Let's look at that a moment. Here are some basic questions you must ask yourself about any such place:

- **Does this church teach that Jesus truly is the son of God and how a person can be in the Kingdom of God?** This is fundamental. Does it teach that a person must truly believe in Jesus, that they must be born of water and the Spirit, that they must do the will of God, that they must have the innocent faith of little children? Those are all requirements Jesus himself spoke about. I know from experience that some denominational churches do not teach much of anything about being in the Kingdom of God. But what could be more important? That need to be born anew, born of water and the Spirit, is just not taught everywhere.
- **Does this church teach the reality of the Holy Spirit now, right now in our lives?** Jesus himself taught when he was first here that when he got back to Heaven, back to his father, he would ask and the Father would send the Holy Spirit. And he taught all the Spirit would do – guide us in all truth, show us things to come, remind us of things Jesus has said to us, tell us of things he hears. The Bible goes further to describe great spiritual gifts that come with being filled with/baptized with the Holy Spirit: healings, miraculous works, prophecy, discernment, and more. That gift of discernment is essential to believers today as they seek to understand

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***Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!***

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the truth from falsehood and deception being put forward by so many in leadership positions in the world. I often ask people if they see the Holy Spirit active in their church – do they have divine healings?

- **Does the church teach the prophecy in the Bible?** That wonderful book is full of prophecy. I have heard it said that as much as a third of the Bible is prophecy – I haven't actually counted it all but that seems possible. The words of prophecy are spoken by Jesus, by Paul, by Moses, by Isaiah, by so many wonderful persons. In the Old Testament the book of Daniel is overwhelmingly prophecy that has come true. How can anyone hope to know the Lord, know God without understanding what God has told us about the truths of life, of the Spiritual world, and the truths of the future – that is your future you know, not just some generic future. In our times right now we have seen the fulfillment of so many prophecies of things to happen before Jesus returns. That is one reason we know his return is imminent.
- **Does the church teach the imminent return of Jesus, that the end of this current age is near?** This is so important and so relevant right now to the future of every person. People need to know that Jesus could come at any moment to collect his sheep and take them with him. They need to know that the seven year Tribulation could begin very very soon. They need to know the prophecies noted above and that they have been fulfilled. They need to know they are truly living in the last days. And they need to know what awaits them if they do not truly know the Lord and are not in his Kingdom.

If you are in a church that does not address or teach the things above, ask the minister why not. And if you do not get a good answer that he is starting soon, get out of there.

Years ago when we were doing our television program, a representative from the local Fox affiliate would stop by the office weekly to pick up the week's program. It was on tape in those days. She liked to talk to me, and one time she just said that her mainstream denominational church was just a social group, a social meeting. Well, right. I knew that about the denomination she mentioned.

There are so many things I could write in a piece like this. A couple years ago a serious survey found that half of those who call themselves Christians do not believe the devil is real. Recently there was the report that the majority of evangelicals do not think the Holy Spirit is real. And then there is just now a survey out that says many Christians believe there is more than one way to God although we know that Jesus said no one comes to the Father except through him. Well, these are things Jesus taught on and guided us on. He warned us about the devil and what he does. And he told us of all the Holy Spirit would do for us. He also said that anyone speaking against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven. That is a pretty heavy statement. I think that people who say they don't believe the devil is real or the Holy Spirit is real or that Jesus is the only way to God are not real believers in the

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Lord Jesus Christ, for they are calling him a liar. But of course we have to leave this judgement up to him.

An old minister friend of mine once said that if Jesus returned on Sunday morning in Atlanta, which is the area he lived in, and called out for his believers to come, there might be one person in a church who would say, "What is that?"

The important thing in life is your understanding of and relation to Jesus Christ. That is it. You must know him and seek to obey what he said, to do his father's will. And to the extent possible, to represent him to others as the Holy Spirit arranges.

And please do remember in these trying times:

***If you do not stand firm in your faith,  
you will not stand at all.*** — Isaiah 7:9b

***Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.*** — Matthew 10:32

***No one comes to the Father except through me.*** — John 14:6

***Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.*** — Matthew 12:32

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**NEVER FORGET THE GREAT TRUTH OF OUR TIME:** Everything is secondary right now to the fact that Jesus is coming soon and that to be in the Kingdom, to go with him, you must be a true believer in him. You must be born anew. Jesus must be your Lord.

**Our thanks always to all who contribute to this ministry with your financial donations as well as to all those who pray for us and assist in other ways!** *(All contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. – whether money or material goods or stocks or bonds – are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 © 3 nonprofit corporation.)*

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

***John***

**PLEASE:** Email or print and send copies of this newsletter to whomever you would.

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