

DOES CHRIST HAVE ONE TRUE CHURCH?

A Chinese exchange student, registering at an American university, was puzzled by the question on the entrance form "What is your religion?" To which his answer, written in the little English he had learned, was "Confusion."



There are thousands who know the English language quite well, and who are not followers of Confucius, who could truthfully write that their religion is "Confusion." They really don't know what they believe, and furthermore they do not seem to care enough about their belief to discover whether or not it is in accordance with what the Bible teaches. Many have inherited their religion from their parents or grandparents and they have never taken time to study the Bible and its teachings for themselves. Many think that as long as they are sincere they will eventually reach heaven. But is sincerity enough? Should we also need to be right?

Every teaching comes either from the Source of truth, the Bible, or from the originator of error. We cannot safely follow our feelings, for God has told us, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 16:25. We must be certain that we accept Bible truths, not error. Philippians 2:12 says; "Wherefore, my beloved, ..., work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."



Has God given us any way of knowing what is truth? Is there any way to identify His true church among so many? How can I tell what to do and what to believe? God has not left us in darkness. Foreseeing this very need He gave us prophecies that answer this very question. Let us now study His Word to find out.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE CHURCH

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

John 15:16

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

HIS WORD SAYS

1. What is God’s true church called in the Bible? 1 Timothy 3:15.

God's true church in every age will be the depository of truth. His church teaches the truth, and Jesus is the "Living God".

2. To whom does God compare the daughter of Zion? Jeremiah 6:2.

This is an important point to remember when studying the book of Revelation and understanding the symbols used there.



3. Who is Zion? Isaiah 51:16.

God has used the symbol of a pure woman to represent His people or His church. Paul describes the church of Corinth as a "chaste virgin" (2 Corinthians 11:2). The woman of Revelation 12 is God's way of picturing the Christian church as well as Jesus in the battle with Satan.

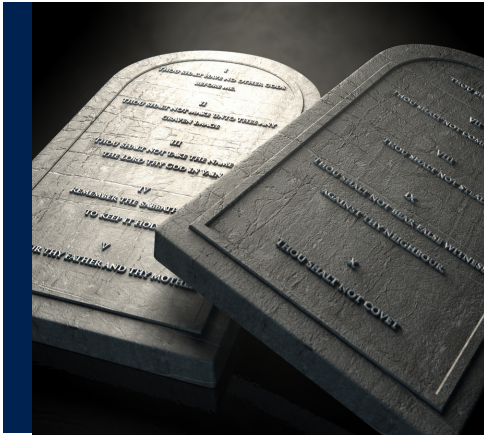


4. Who is represented by the great dragon? Revelation 12:7-9.

5. Against whom does the devil especially direct his wrath and final warfare?
Revelation 12:17.

The "remnant, or rest" is the leftover part. Just as a remnant of a bolt of cloth is the remaining part of that roll, and of the same material, so the remnant of God's church is the last of His church on earth that is of the same quality as the church that Christ established at the start.

6. What are the two special identification marks of the remnant, or last part, of the true church? Revelation 12:17.



Revelation 19:10 says that the "testimony of Jesus" is the "spirit of prophecy." This is very important and will come up in a future study which further affirms the true church of God.

7. Which commandment of God does nearly the whole Christian world except for a small remnant ignore?

Exodus 20:8-11. _____

In order to be the true church which keeps all the commandments of God, that church should love Jesus and keep His Sabbath day holy as well.

8. What should God's people do that becomes a sign of their relationship with God?
Ezekiel 20:20

The Sabbath is a sign that distinguishes us as those who worship the one true God who created the heavens and the earth. Consider this in light of Isaiah 8:16 and Revelation 7:2-3.

9. What message will God's church take to the world? Revelation 14:6,7.

The Seventh-day Adventist church is the only Church in the world teaching this message. If you look closely at verse 7 and compare it with Exodus 20:11 you will see that it is a reference to the Sabbath commandment and involves a call back to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

10. What must the Remnant be rooted and grounded in for their faith to become unshakable? Ephesians 3:16-19

The foundation of the believers salvation is the amazing agape love of God . It is faith in this love, as well as being filled with all the fullness of God, that is able to keep us from falling in the great tribulation.

11. How does God describe the people who are called out by the threefold message in Revelation 14, who prepare for the coming of Christ? Revelation 14:12.

You will note that this is very similar to Revelation 12:17 where we read that the remnant of the woman's seed would be keeping the commandments of God. The fact that God is repeating Himself shows us that this is an important point. God's end time saints/church will keep all of His commandments.

12. What is the very next scene in Revelation 14:14?

We previously read in verse 6 that the remnant church would take the everlasting gospel to the world. Once each person has received the truth of the Gospel and understood the relationship between God's law and grace, then the end will surely come. Jesus said: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:24.

13. To what is the path of the just compared? Hosea 14:9; Proverbs 4:18.

The just are those who walk in and share God's Truth. The light is His Word which is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105. God loves us so much and will never leave people in doubt of how hard He works to save them. Revelation 17 describes a woman which represents a church full of abominations in verse 4 and 5. Which do you want to choose today?



**"If ye love me, keep my commandments."
John 14:15**



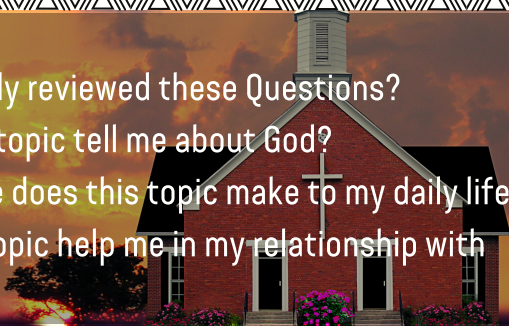
"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you: when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon you."

Isaiah 43:2

LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?



YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

I have found these studies have testified of the love Jesus has for me.

I want to belong to God's true church, a fellowship of believers who desire to apply scripture completely to their lives.

I desire to use my abilities and talents under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to build up God's church, and be a Spirit-led shining light to others.

Other _____