



The Bible Speaks

DOES CHRIST HAVE A CHURCH TODAY?

A number of years ago a Chinese exchange student registered at an American university for a college education. On the entrance blank he was asked the question, "What is your religion?" His answer, written in the little English that he had learned, was "Confusion."

There are thousands of Americans who know the English language quite well, and who are now followers of Confucius, who could truthfully write that their religion is "Confusion." They really don't know 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 the time that is required to study the Bible and its teachings for themselves.

Perhaps this is part of the reason why 300 different denominations are found in the United States. Many of these churches teach theories diametrically opposed to one another and are not in harmony with the Bible doctrines. All too many deceive themselves by thinking that as long as they are sincere they will eventually reach the better land. But sincerity is not enough - we must also be right!

Every teaching comes either from the source of truth or it is an attempt by the deceiver to mislead those who are seeking the way of eternal life. We cannot safely follow our feelings, for God has told us, "There is a way that **seemeth** right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 16:25 (OT 532). If this is true and we believe it, we must be certain that we are accepting Bible truths and not error.

Has God given us any way of knowing what is truth? Is there any means by which we can tell what is the true Church? Are all churches right? How can I tell what to do and believe? God has not left us in darkness. Forseeing this very need He gave us a prophecy that answers the question. Let us study it now.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

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

The Bible Answer: “The pillar and ground _____”

Note: God’s true church in every age will be the depository of truth. Find His church and you will find the truth.

Please read the entire chapter of **Revelation 12** before you proceed.

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

The Bible Answer: _____

3. Who is Zion? **Isaiah 51:16**

The Bible Answer: _____

Note: 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 (NT 164)**. The woman of **Revelation 12:1** is God’s means of picturing the Christian Church in its battle with Satan.

4. What power is represented by the great red dragon? **Revelation 12:7-9**

The Bible Answer: _____

5. Who is the man child who the Devil tried to destroy? **Revelation 12:5**

The Bible Answer: _____

6. How did the Devil try to destroy Christ as soon as He was born?
Revelation 12:3, 4; Matthew 2:1-16

The Bible Answer: _____

7. When the Devil realized that he was bound to this earth and that his days were numbered, what did he do to the woman (church)?

Revelation 12:13, 14

The Bible Answer: _____

8. Where did the woman (church) flee to escape the persecution which lasted 1,260 years? **Revelation 12:6 & 14**

The Bible Answer: _____

Note: The prophetic time period here mentioned represents 1,260 literal years. See **Ezekiel 4:6**

9. Against what part of the true church does the Devil especially direct his wrath and final warfare? **Revelation 12:17**

The Bible Answer: _____

Note: The "Remnant," is the last part of the church. Just as a remnant of a bolt of cloth is the last part of that roll, so the last part of God's Church on earth is here brought to view.

10. What are the two special characteristics that the remnant, or last part of the true church, will have? **Revelation 12:17**

The Bible Answer:

1. _____

2. _____

Note: **Revelation 19:10 (NT 224)** says that the "Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy."

11. Which commandment of God does nearly the whole Christian world ignore? **Exodus 20:8-11**

The Bible Answer: _____

Note: In order to be the true church, which keeps all the commands of God, it must be keeping God's holy day.

12. What is the three-fold message that will be proclaimed in all the world by this church? **Revelation 14:6-12**

The Bible Answer:

Verse 6, 7 First _____

Verse 8 Second _____

Verse 9 Third _____

13. How are the people, who are called out by this three-fold message, and who are ready for the coming of Christ, characterized?

Revelation 14:12-14

The Bible Answer: "They keep _____
and _____."

14. What call does God make to His people who are in the false or confused religious bodies of the world today? **Revelation 18:1-4**

The Bible Answer: _____

Hundreds of sincere searchers for truth have been kept so busy with the things of this world that they have not taken time to give serious study to this remarkable prophecy. It is amazing to see how clearly God has outlined the history of His Church from the day of Christ to the present hour.

It is more than a coincidence, however, that in two different places, in the book of Revelation, God uses the term, "Keep the Commandments of God." In this age of spiritual confusion many religious leaders are teaching that God does not want His children to keep His commandments. They go so far as to assert that the commandments of God have been abolished by the death of Christ. We see from this prophecy that God, by His divine foresight, must have known what was going to be taught today. He pictures His people as those who keep His commandments. Those who carry His last gospel message to the world are described as those who are obedient to Him. They obey Him because they love Him supremely and their obedience is a manifestation of this love.

In finding the true church, as described in Revelation, we must find a church which keeps all of God's commandments, which surely includes the Sabbath. That church must have the Gift of Prophecy in its midst and it must be working in all of the world giving the three-fold gospel message of Revelation 14. Look about you today and you will find only one church that has all of the marks of the true church. When you find this church you will not want to hesitate in uniting with God's remnant in giving the gospel to all the world.

(If you wish to respond to the following questions, place a cross in the boxes.)

I want to unite my life with Christ and serve Him.

I am determined to be in that group which is prepared for the coming of Jesus.

I would enjoy visiting services in a church that has these characteristics.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____