

# Identifying the New Testament Church

*Matthew 16:13-18*

## I. Introduction

A. In the world of religion today there are literally thousands of churches. Such a situation is extremely confusing to one who does not know what the Bible says. Therefore, although the person is honest and sincerely wants to do what is right, he may not know what to look for in order to identify the church of the Bible. One church is not as good as another, as some claim. The church that Jesus promised to build is the one true church.

## II. Purpose

A. The purpose of this study is an effort to present some things to look for when searching for the church mentioned in the New Testament -- the one Jesus promised to build. There are many identifying features revealed in the word of God which will help a person to know which church is scriptural and recognized by God as the spiritual body of Christ.

## III. There was a New Testament church

- A. Matt. 16:18
- B. Acts 2:47
- C. Acts 8:1-3

## IV. There was a departure

- A. Acts 20:28-30
- B. 1 Tim. 4:1-2
- C. Pet. 2:1-2

## V. Characteristics of the New Testament church

- A. Founded by Christ (Mt. 16:18; Ps. 127:1)
- B. Began in Jerusalem (Lk. 24:44-49; Acts 1:4-8)
- C. Time of beginning (Acts 2:1-4, 16-18, 36-41, 47)
- D. Unity in one body (Jn. 17:21, 22; Eph. 4:3-4)
- E. Opposed division (1 Cor. 1:10-13; Rom. 16:17-18)
- F. Contended for one faith (Eph. 4:5; Jude 3)
- G. All converts were baptized into one body (1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 3:15)
- H. Honored the name of Christ (Acts 11:26; 26:28; Mt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16)

## VI. Conclusion

A. As we have seen by the scriptures, our Lord Jesus Christ only promised to build one church, and in the days of the apostles every person who was saved through the preaching of the gospel became a member of the same church, the church of the New Testament, the church of Christ.