

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #11

I Am A Member Of The Church Of Christ Because...

IT IS THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED BY CHRIST ON THE FIRST PENTECOST AFTER THE LORD'S RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD.

Both John the baptizer and Jesus preached that the kingdom was “*at hand*” (Matt. 3:1-2; Mark 1:14-15). The long awaited kingdom of the Old Testament was about to be established (cf. Isa. 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-4; Daniel 2:44). It is revealed in the New Testament as the “church.” Jesus spoke of the church and kingdom interchangeably — one and the same (Matt. 16:18-19). Kingdom being his domain. Church being his body.

Jesus taught the kingdom/church would be established during the lifetime of those to whom he spoke. “...*There be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death (die), till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power*” (Mark 9:1). If the kingdom has not yet come as many claim, then either Jesus lied or there are some of those who heard him speak on that occasion who are still living today. That would make them 2,000 years old!

Jesus says the kingdom/church of Old Testament prophecy has been established and continues to exist today.

1) Jesus said the kingdom would come “*with power*” (Mark 9:1).

2) He told the apostles to wait “...*in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power*” (Luke 24:49).

3) He tells the apostles they would “*receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you*” (Acts 1:8).

To learn when the Holy Spirit came, is to learn when the power came. To learn when the power came, is to learn when the kingdom came. The Holy Spirit came with power and ushered in the kingdom/church on Pentecost.

The twelve apostles received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:1-4; cf. John 14:26). They received power from the Holy Spirit to speak by divine inspiration. The conclusion therefore is this, **the church/kingdom was established on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.**

Acts 2 marks the beginning of the church/kingdom. Every verse prior to Acts 2 speaks of the church/kingdom to come (be established) in the future. Every verse after Acts 2 speaks of the kingdom as present (having been established). As a result, Acts 2 is often referred to as the “hub” of the Bible. The hub of a wheel is the center piece to which all the spokes are connected. The entire Bible, Old and New Testaments alike, all point to, are connected to, Acts chapter 2 where the kingdom, the church of Christ, is established.

Since the church of Christ was established on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, the kingdom came that same day for they are one and the same institution.

Those who obey the Gospel by **believing, repenting, confessing** and being **baptized** are added to, become citizens of, the church/kingdom (Acts 2:41,47; Col. 1:13; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; 8:36-39; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

Why not obey the Gospel today?

— Garland M. Robinson