

Morning Star Baptist Church
"I am a Baptist Because..."
The Ancient Landmark
3/11/07

Introduction

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

There is an Ancient Landmark that has been rejected by men but precious and chosen of God, The Head of the Corner, The Chief Cornerstone. This Ancient Landmark must never be removed. **Proverbs 22:28** Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set. Also, see **Proverbs 23:16**. Christ is the Rock and His kind of church is built on the Divine Foundation.

Other churches must claim Christ as their head in an allegorical way or in a spiritual sense. But so do Baptists. However, we claim Christ as our Head also historically, doctrinally, and Divinely!

I. The Ancient Landmark based on the Revelation

Matthew 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

- A. The True Church and the way of righteousness are based on a Divine Revelation of non-worldly origin.
- B. The True Church is based on the supernatural, not fables and foolish folklore, but on the smile of heaven, though it is unnoticed by the world.
- C. The True Church is identified upon true Christology, the Divine Revelation and true understanding of the real Jesus. **I Corinthians 2:2** For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. Be careful, for there is another Jesus taught **II Corinthians 11:4**. But the True Church belongs to God and His Son **Revelation 11:15**.
- D. When a church has this true Revelation, then there must be a regenerate membership, saved persons who had a believer's baptism. The True Church cannot baptize infants or accept members who do not acknowledge this Revelation.

II. The Ancient Landmark based on the Rock

A. Jesus Christ is the Rock, the Petra, the bedrock, the base and foundation of the True Church.

B. It is not the primacy of Peter, (Petros = the little rock), or the Pope. The True Church has one true Head and he is not in Rome, in Mecca, or in Nashville. He is in heaven, seated at the right hand of God.

C. This Rock is Christ alone. **Deuteronomy 32:31 For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.** The True Church dates from 33 A.D.

III. The Ancient Landmark based on Responsibility

A. "... **I will build...**" The True Church has a promise that the Son of God will be responsible for her growth if she will be obedient.

B. The growth that we really desire is the growth that is given by the Lord. Other perceived growth is inflated imitation. A garden may be very green because it is full of weeds.

C. Christ is the builder and all methods of evangelism and outreach must be judged and scrutinized by the Word of God, the Divine Building Code. Worldly wisdom and worldly methods are repudiated.

IV. The Ancient Landmark based on Relationship

A. "...**my church...**" This world has many institutions named after their founders like Procter and Gamble, Kroger, Ford, and J.C. Penny's

B. Many denominations are named for their founders or their philosophy: Lutherans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists, Buddhists, and Muslims.

C. The True Church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ founded not a church but the church, His church.

D. The church, ecclesia, can be translated as an assembly or a called out group. The word is used 117 times in the Bible and 112 are indisputably a local, visible church. The remaining five are used in the abstract or generically.

The Roman Catholic Church believes they are the Universal Visible Church.
The Protestant Church believes they are the Universal Invisible Church.
Historically, Baptists have been the Local Visible Church.

There is no Universal Concept of the Body of Christ. **Ephesians 4:4 There is one body,**

and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

I Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. Who was Paul writing to here? The local Corinthian Church.

Conclusion

True Churches have an Ancient Landmark, but someone is trying to remove it. MSBC and true Baptist churches must guard our Ancient Landmark. Satan is trying to destroy scriptural N.T. churches.

- There is internal strife
- There are false churches and rank heresy exists.
- Para-church groups take members from the True Church.
- Ultra pragmatism and seeker sensitive churches have replaced sound doctrine.
- And soon there will be another persecution

I Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.