

**Morning Star Baptist Church**  
***"I am a Baptist Because..."***  
**A Promised Perpetuity**  
**3/25/07**

**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.**

If history and recent precedents do not square with scripture then they have no credibility with the Bible believing Christian. Remember from the first message in this series, "The Blessed Book," what do The Scriptures say? Does the Inspired Word of God promise a perpetuated existence for His kind of churches? If so, it behooves every child of God to discover the location of such a church.

"From the apostolic age to the present time the sentiments of Baptists and the practice of baptism has had a continued chain of advocates; and public monuments of their existence in every century can be found and produced." A quote from Alexander Campbell during a debate with a Presbyterian minister in the mid-1800's. <sup>1</sup>

"I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist Church as far back as 100 A.D. though without doubt there were Baptists then, as all Christians were then Baptists." A quote John Clark Ridpath, a noted Methodist commentator. <sup>2</sup>

Perpetuity means that something began in time will continue in successive stages throughout time. The Lord Jesus started His Church in His earthly ministry, built it upon Himself, the Rock, and promised that the gates, the satanic headquarters of hell, would not prevail against it. Also this could refer to the fact that dying generations won't extinguish the continuance, the perpetuity of Christ's Church. Also remember from the last message, "The Ancient Landmark," that when we refer to Christ's Church(es), that is a local, visible New Testament Church(es).

**I. Perpetuity because of Evangelism**

**Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

A. Jesus ordained His Church to evangelize the world and He said that His Church would be doing this noble work until He comes **Matthew 28:18-20**.

B. If the Lord's kinds of churches do not have a perpetual continuance then evangelism

will devolve into an Arminian, pagan enlistment program.

C. While many such churches exist, there has been a church that has been faithful to the Gospel, and to Free Grace, and she has had the martyrs to prove it,

D. Christ's Church cooperates with the Holy Spirit. **Revelation 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star**

## **II. Perpetuity because of the Ordinances**

A. The Church has only two ordinances, The Lord's Supper and Believer's Baptism. Both are restricted and tied to church membership and truth. **1 Corinthians 11:23 -26 (23) For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: (24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. (25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. (26) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.** Key are the last three words, **till he come**, meaning this practice will continue until that day.

**Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

B. The Scripture says, "**One Lord, one faith, and one baptism,**" **Ephesians 4:5.** If the N.T. church has not had a continued existence since the first century the ordinances are nothing more than sentimental symbols.

## **III. Perpetuity because of Doctrinal Truth**

A. If the True Church was the Papal Church in Rome and it apostacized to be reformed by the Protestants, then the truth is relative!

B. But if the True Church has continued, then truth continues with it. **Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.** History is replete with how our forefathers contended unto their deaths.

C. If the pillar and the ground have collapsed and caved in then truth has fallen down with them. **1 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.**

## IV. Perpetuity because of Christ's Glory

A. The Lord promised that His Church would continue until He comes back. These kinds of churches hold Christ as their first love. Even though Christ can receive some limited glory wherever His name and word are preached, He receives the purest glory through His Church.

B. Should not a man's biggest fan and supporter be his bride, the wife of his youth?  
**Ephesians 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.** Notice the time. When? Throughout all ages.

### Conclusion

Has not The Sovereign Lord perpetuated

- the human race
- the nation of Israel
- The Bible

Then why does it seem incredulous that He would perpetuate His Church?

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<sup>1</sup> 1. C.D. Cole, *Definitions of Doctrine, Vol. III, The New Testament Church* (Bryan Station Baptist Church, 1970), 24.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, 24