

圣经函授课程

A BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Lesson 12—The Church, Part 1

第十二课 - 教会（一）

There are thousands of different churches in the world. Each one of these denominations has its own teachings which are different from the teachings of other denominations. Each one of these churches is called by a different name. Yet, all of them claim to be following the Bible. Is this possible? No, it is not! The Bible contains only one teaching. Yet each one of these denominations has a different teaching.

What is the true church? How can we learn which is right? There is only one way. Let us go to the Bible. The Bible will tell us what Christ's church is.

The Bible helps us to understand what Christ's church is like. It does this by "figures" or "pictures" of the church. Let us look at some of these pictures that we may understand what the true church is like.

THE KINGDOM

The Bible often pictures Christ's church as a kingdom. Sometimes it is called the "kingdom of God" because God is its Ruler. The members of the church are citizens of the kingdom. Sometimes the church is called the "kingdom of heaven" because it is a spiritual kingdom. It is not an earthly kingdom.

We know that the kingdom and the church are the same thing because Christ used them in this way. For example, let us hear Jesus' words to Peter: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19).

God has set up His kingdom on the earth. It began on the Day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. Read Acts 2:1-47. It began in city of Jerusalem. Since the church and the kingdom are the same, we know that Christ's church began in Jerusalem. It began on the first day of Pentecost after Jesus arose from the dead. Any church which began at any other place than Jerusalem cannot be the true church. Any church which began at any other time cannot be the true church.

Just before He returned to Heaven, Jesus said, "...Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46-47).

THE TEMPLE OF GOD

The Bible sometimes pictures the church as the temple of God. "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:19-21).

请在下列的空白线上填入答案:

1. 全世界有_____多不同的_____.
2. 基督的教会在_____开始.
3. 现今教会是神的_____.
4. 为了变成神家庭中的一份子, 人必须要 _____.
5. 现今、基督的教会是神所选的_____.
6. _____是基督的教会的总部.

假如句子是正确的、在空白线写『是』; 假如句子是不真实的、在空白线写『非』.

1. ___ 我们跟从圣经就可以确定我们做对.
2. ___ 所有的教会都是真正的教会.
3. ___ 基督的教会有教皇来统治.
4. ___ 基督只有一身体.
5. ___ 天国是属灵的国度.
6. ___ 我们知道国度和教会是一样的.
7. ___ 神借着祂的灵居住在教会里面.
8. ___ 在基督的教会里, 每一份子都是祭司.
9. ___ 现今、基督的教会是神所选的国家.
10. ___ 基督只有一个教会.

在空白线里填入经节的字:

1. 『身体只有_____, 圣灵只有一个』(弗 4:4).
2. 『又将万有服在他的脚下, 使他为教会作万有之_____. 教会是他的_____, 是那充满万有者所充满的』(弗 1:22-23).
3. 『岂不知道你们是神的_____, 神的灵住在你们里头么』(林前 3:16).
4. 『倘若我耽延日久, 你也可以知道在神的_____当怎样行. 这家就是永生神的, 真理的柱石和根基』(提前 3:15).
5. 我还告诉你, 你是彼得, 我要把我的_____建造在这盘石上, 阴间的权柄, 不能胜过他. 我要把_____的_____给你, 凡你在地上所捆绑的, 在天上也要捆绑. 凡你在地上所释放的, 在天上也要释放』(太 16:18-19).

TEST – LESSON 12

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. There are more than _____ different _____ in the world.
2. Christ's church began in _____.
3. Today the church is God's _____.
4. One must be born _____ to become a member of God's family.
5. Today Christ's church is the chosen _____ of God.
6. _____ is the headquarters of Christ's church.

IF THE STATEMENT IS CORRECT, WRITE TRUE IN THE BLANK;

IF THE STATEMENT IS FALSE, WRITE FALSE IN THE BLANK.

1. ___ By following the Bible we can be sure we are right.
2. ___ All churches are true churches.
3. ___ Christ's church has a pope to rule over it.
4. ___ Christ has only one body.
5. ___ The kingdom of heaven is a spiritual kingdom.
6. ___ The church and the kingdom are the same.
7. ___ God dwells in the church through His Spirit.
8. ___ Every member of Christ's church is a priest.
9. ___ Today Christ's church is the chosen nation of God.
10. ___ Christ has only one church.

FILL IN THE BLANKS IN THE SCRIPTURES:

1. There is _____ body and one Spirit (Ephesians 4:4).
2. And he has put all things under his feet, and has made him the _____ over all things for the church, which is his _____, the fullness of him who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:22-23).
3. Do you not know that you are God's _____ and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16).
4. If I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the _____ of God, which is the _____ of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
5. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my _____, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the _____ of _____, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:18-19).

全世界有五千多不同的教派。每一个教派都有自己不同于别的教派的教训。每一个教派的名称都不一样。但是、这些教派都宣称它们跟从圣经。这是有可能的吗？不、不可能！圣经只有一种道理。但是这五千多不同的教派都有不同的教训。

什么是真正的教会？我们如何知道那一个是正确的？只有一个方法。我们一起来看圣经。圣经会告诉我们基督的教会是什么。

圣经帮助我们了解基督的教会像什么样子。圣经用『象征』或『描述』来让我们了解。为了明白真正教会的性质我们一起来看这些描述。

国度

圣经常常以国度来描述基督的教会。有时候它叫做神的国度因为神是它的主。教会的一份子是国度里的子民。有时候教会叫做天国因为它是属灵的国度。它不是属世的国度。

我们知道国度和教会是一样的、因为基督是这么用它们的。比方说、我们来听祂对彼得所说的：『我还告诉你，你是彼得，我要把我的教会建造在这盘石上。阴间的权柄，不能胜过他。我要把天国的钥匙给你，凡你在地上所捆绑的，在天上也要捆绑。凡你在地上所释放的，在天上也要释放』(太 16:18-19)。

神已经把祂的国度建立在世上。它在基督从死里复活后第一个五旬节开始。请念使徒行传 2:1-47。它从耶路撒冷开始。因为教会跟国度是一样的、所以我们知道基督的教会从耶路撒冷开始。它在祂从死里复活后第一个五旬节开始。若不是从耶路撒冷开始的教会、就不会是真正的教会。在其它时间开始的教会就不是真正的教会。

又对他们说：「照经上所写的，基督必受害，第三日从死里复活，并且人要奉他的名传悔改、赦罪的道，从耶路撒冷起直传到万邦（路加福音 24:46-47）。

神的圣殿

有时候圣经以基督的教会为神的殿。『这样，你们不在作外人和客旅，是与圣徒同国，是神家里的人了。并且被建造在使徒和先知的根基上，有基督耶稣自己为房角石。各房靠他联络得合式，渐渐成为主的圣殿』（弗 2:19-21)。

In the Old Testament, we can read how King Solomon built a temple for God (1 Kings 8:12-13). Today, the church is God's temple. God dwells in the church through His Spirit: "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple" (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Sometimes the Bible pictures the church as God's household or family. "If I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). In His family, the church, God is the father. Members of the church are His children. One becomes a member of a family by being born into it. The same is true of God's family. One must be born again to become a member of it. "...Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (John 3:5).

A HOLY NATION AND A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Another picture of Christ's church is that of a holy nation and a royal priesthood. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). In Old Testament times, God chose the nation of Israel to be His people. Today, Christ's church is the chosen nation of God. In the nation of Israel, there was a special class of people who served as priests. Only the priests were allowed to conduct the public worship of God. But in Christ's church, every member is a priest. Every member can pray to God for himself.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

Many times the Bible pictures Christ's church as His body. "And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all" (Ephesians 1:22-23). The church is the body of Christ. Christ is the head of the body. He rules from heaven. Heaven is the headquarters of Christ's church. The human body has only one head. Christ's body, the church, has only one head. Christ is the Head of the church! Christ's church has no pope or president on the earth to rule over it. The church is the body of Christ. Christ has only one body.

Therefore, Christ has only one church. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4). There are many thousands of different denominations in the world today. Christ's church is His body. Does Christ have thousands of different bodies? Of course not! A man has only one body. Christ has only one body—the church.

You are now ready to answer the questions on Lesson 12

在旧约里我们会念到所罗门王如何为神建立一座圣殿。(王上 8:12-13)。现今教会是神的圣殿。神借着祂的灵居住在教会里面。『岂不知道你们是神的殿，神的灵住在你们里头么。若有人毁坏神的殿，神必要毁坏那人。因为神的殿是圣的，这殿就是你们』(林前 3:16-17)。

神的家

有时候圣经以教会为神的全家或神的家。『倘若我耽延日久，你也可以知道在神的家中当怎样行。这家就是永生神的教会，真理的柱石和根基』(提前 3:15)。在祂的家里、就是教会中、神是天父。教会的一份子是祂的儿女。人借着出生变成家庭的一份子。神的家庭也是如此。为了变成神家庭的一份子人必须重生。『…我实实在在的告诉你，人若不是从水和圣灵生的，就不能进神的国』(约翰福音 3:5)。

圣洁的国度和君尊的祭司

基督教会的另外一种描述是圣洁的国度和君尊的祭司。『惟有你们是被拣选的族类，是有君尊的祭司，是圣洁的国度，是属神的子民，要叫你们宣扬那召你们出黑暗入奇妙光明者的美德』(彼前 2:9)。在旧约时候、神选了以色列国作祂的人民。现今、基督的教会是神所选的国家。在以色列国里、有特别阶级的人来做祭司。只有这些祭司可以作公开的崇拜来敬拜神。但是在基督的教会里、每一份子都是祭司。每一份子可以自己向神祷告。

基督的身体

圣经多次以祂的身体来描述基督的教会。『又将万有服在他的脚下，使他为教会作万有之首。教会是他的身体，是那充满万有者所充满的』(弗 1:22-23)。教会是基督的身体。基督是身体的头。祂是天上的统治者。天堂是基督的教会的总部。人的身体只有一个头。基督的身体、即教会、只有一个头。基督是教会的头！在世上基督的教会没有教皇或总统来统治它。教会是基督的身体。基督只有一个身体。

所以、基督只有一个教会。『身体只有一个，圣灵只有一个，正如你们蒙召，同有一个指望』(弗 4:4)。全世界有五千多不同的教派。基督的教会是祂的身体。基督有五千多个不同的身体吗？当然没有！人只有一个身体而且基督只有一个教会。

现在、您可以针对第十二课来作答。