

There Is A Church

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

There is so much confusion in our world today about faith, religion, and the various beliefs that people have. Wars, and as we know, various acts of violence are done in the name of religion. Some think that if you don't believe like they do, that you should be killed. Some religions worship animals and are as wrong as all the man made religions of the past. Even in what is called the church, Christianity, there is much confusion about what is right. There seem to be hundreds of different kinds of churches, all claiming to be serving the Lord.

Some fight harder against other churches than they do against the devil. One preaches one thing and another preaches against the same thing. Common sense tells us that they can't both be right. One teaches holiness while another says that sin is acceptable. No wonder so many people don't come to church, they don't know which one is right. I heard a story years ago of

two different missionaries who went to a tribe in a remote jungle. One preached one thing and the other said that was wrong and was against the other. The chief called them both together and told them that one was right and one was wrong and he didn't know which to believe. They were told to go home and get together, figure who was right, then come back and teach them.

Amidst all the confusion there is a church! There is a light that shines out of the darkness and shows the true way of God. Among the many voices teaching so many false doctrines there is a voice that calls us to follow the truth. How can we know which path, and which voice to follow you might wonder? It is not so confusing or so hard as you might think, to find the right one.

First, don't look at the building, thinking that if it looks nice, it must be the right place. Steeples, stained glass, and a fancy building don't make it a place where God is worshiped in truth. Samuel was taught not to look and to judge by appearance in **1 Samuel 16:7** where God said, "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the

Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

How about the name on the church sign? That's important, right? Sure it is, for often it indicates the doctrines that is taught. Some are man-made names that are not mentioned in the word of God, as is some of the doctrines that are taught. Still, no matter what the sign over the door says, it is no guarantee that it is the right one.

Okay, how do we know which is the right one? It's simple, it is the one following the Lord exclusively. Man's ideas are left out, the gospel is preached, the Lord is worshiped, and the congregation walks in faith and love. Some claim to be following the will of God, but while they look like what most think a Christian should look like, they don't always act like one. Judging, looking down on others, and acting like they, and they alone, are pleasing to God is not the mark of the true church. Jesus said that we are to do the will of God and that by love we would show ourselves to be his people. **John 13:35**.

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THE PROPHETS AND POLITICS!

DURING THE YEARS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS, JUDAH AND ISRAEL, THEIR DAYS OF GLORY OVER, WERE HEMMED IN BY ENEMY STATES ON ALL SIDES! THE KINGS, EACH IN HIS TURN, APPEALED TO PROPHETS FOR HELP. BEING A PROPHET IN THOSE DAYS ENTAILED MORE THAN JUST A PASSING KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT POLITICS! WAS SYRIA AT ODDS WITH EGYPT? DID BABYLON HAVE ITS EYE ON ASSYRIAN TERRITORY? WERE THE MEDES LIKELY TO FORM ALLIANCE WITH MOAB? THESE QUESTIONS HAD TO BE WEIGHED CAREFULLY, FOR JUDAH AND ISRAEL WERE SQUEEZED BETWEEN POWERFUL STATES....



IN THE BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS, WE CAN FIND, AMONGST ADMONITIONS TO THE PEOPLE TO KEEP GOD'S WAYS, MANY BITS OF ADVICE AGAINST ALLIANCES WITH COUNTRIES THAT MIGHT BRING THE WRATH OF ANOTHER POWERFUL STATE SHATTERING DOWN UPON THEIR LUCKLESS HEADS! ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AMOS, NATHAN, ETC., ALL HAD THEIR SAY IN HOW BEST TO AVOID DESTRUCTION BY SOME ALL-POWERFUL NEIGHBOR—UNFORTUNATELY, KINGS BEING WHAT THEY WERE, THIS ADVICE WAS RARELY TAKEN!

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