

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

242 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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MY NAME

DATE

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CHOOSING YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

- Questions To Answer** (a) Is the place of worship (ie: the building) close enough that I can attend all the services without undue hardship? (b) Are the members friendly? Do they (1 Pet 4:9) “*use _____ one to _____ without grudging?*” (c) (Rom 16:16) “*The _____ of Christ _____ you.*” Would the members object to a sign that reads, “*This is a church of Christ?*” Ask them! If they do it is readily apparent they are a denomination and not a local body of the NT Church. (d) Do they (Titus 2:1) teach “*the things which become _____*”?
- Is The Description On The Signboard Scriptural?** A sign is never a sign of itself. It indicates, describes, and points to something else. The NT Church has no proper name. It does have many scriptural descriptions. Paul wrote NT Christians (1 Cor 12:27) saying, “*ye are the _____ of Christ*” because (Eph 5:23) “*Christ is the _____ of the church*” and every body must have a head. It is the (Acts 20:28) “*church of _____*” because Jesus is God the Son (Jn 1:1) and “*he hath _____*” it “*with his own _____.*” It is called (Eph 5:5) the “*kingdom of _____ and of God*” because The Father (Jn 3:16) sent Jesus to be (1 Tim 6:15) “*King of _____, and Lord of _____.*”
- There Are Many Others** It is described as (Heb 12:23) the “*church of the _____*” because it is Christ’s church and he is (Col 1:18) “*the firstborn from the _____*” as well as the one and only “*firstborn _____*” (Mt 1:25) of a virgin mother. There are other descriptive phrases. Any group describing themselves with unscriptural language cannot be a NT Church.
- Day Of Worship** Most religious bodies worship on the (scriptural) first day of the week (ie: Sunday). Some still observe the OT Sabbath (ie: Saturday) which was abrogated (Rom 8:2) by “*the law of the _____ of _____ in Christ Jesus*” when he (Eph 2:15) “*abolished--the _____ of commandments.*” It is easy to know that “Sabbatarians” are not members of the NT Church.
- Is The Local Church Autonomous?** This may be the last question in your mind but it is an important one. We recommend that you carefully study TPBS Lesson #240, The NT Church - Local & Universal. *Autonomous* means self-governing. Find out if the local church you are considering is part of a “larger” district, statewide, national, or international confederation. If so, it cannot be a scriptural NT Church. Like the church at Phillipi (Phil 1:1) each local church is comprised of “*_____ in Christ Jesus*” and the mature congregations will have “*bishops and _____.*”
- Who Is The Preacher?** This may seem a minor consideration but it is very important. Why? Many denominational churches have ordained women and homosexuals as their preachers. (a) The latter is condemned by both Natural Law and in every covenant God ever made with man. We recommend that you carefully study TPBS Lesson #73, What The Bible Says About Homosexuality. Turn and read Romans 1:26-27. (b) In the First Century Church (1 Cor 14:34) Paul commanded, “*Let your women in the churches.*” A “politically correct” local church is not a NT Church.

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