

The Lord's Church

By *Ron Boatwright*

"The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Only those who are saved according to God's instructions are in the Lord's church. But how many churches does the Lord have? Jesus says in Matthew 16:18, "Upon this rock I will build **My church**." The word "My" shows possession and that the church belongs to Jesus. The word church is singular not plural. The Lord only promised to build His **one church**.

In Ephesians 4:4-6 we read, "There is **one body**, and one Spirit, even as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all." Just as there is only one God, there is only one body. What is this **one body**? In Ephesians 1:21-22 we find out what this **one body** is, "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to **the church, which is His body**." Here we see that the Bible says the church is the body. So the **one body** is the **one church** which belongs to the Lord. One might as well believe in more than one God as to believe that the Lord has more than one church.

Today we hear the sincere but mistaken plea to "attend the church of your choice." Why not attend the church of God's choice, the only one that Jesus "purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Christ did not shed His blood to purchase any denomination. The one church that Christ purchased with His own blood belongs to Him and the name it wears must honor Him. We read in Romans 16:16, "The **churches of Christ** greet you."

We read in Ephesians 5:23, "Christ is the head of **the church**, and he is **the savior of the body**." Christ is only the saviour of His one body, His one church. The Lord only adds the saved to His church (Acts 2:47). In the Lord's scheme of redemption, He has only planned to have one church. He is only going to save His one true church.