

The Scourge Of Denominationalism

By Ron Boatwright

The beginning of denominations (which are humanly originated religious institutions) was one of the cleverest and most deceptive things Satan has ever done. The denominations claim to be servants of Christ while they reject Christ's plan of salvation (Mark 16:16); they reject Christ's one church (Ephesians 4:4-6, 1:21-22); and they reject Christ's specified way of worship (Mark 7:7). There are many different kinds of churches, but all except one are of human origin. No Protestant denomination can trace its history back any further than the days of Martin Luther in 1517 AD.

Jesus only established His one church. In response to Peter's confession that "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God", Jesus says, "and upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:16, 18). Jesus only promised to build His church and not any of the many denominations we see in existence today.

Jesus only has one church. Ephesians 4:4-6 says, "There is **one body**, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **one God** and Father of all". There is only one God even though there are many false counterfeit gods. Here we also see that there is only **one body**, even though there are many false counterfeit bodies today. What is this one body? Colossians 1:18 says concerning Christ, "and he is the head of the body, the church". This one body is the Lord's one church. He only has one body. What is the Lord going to do with His one body? Ephesians 5:23 says concerning the Lord, "and he is the saviour of the body". Jesus is only the Saviour of His one body, which is His one church.

What is going to happen to the more than 600 different denominational churches, men have established? Jesus says, "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13). It is detrimental to belong to any of the denominational churches. Denominational lies have caused multiplied millions of people to go through life believing that they are saved, but on Judgment Day they will find out the horrible truth, that they are eternally lost in Hell because they believed a lie. This is very sad. Denominationalism is the case of the blind leading the blind. Jesus says, "And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matthew 15:14). One cannot be a Christian and belong to a denomination. People must do something more than, less than, or different from what the Bible says to become a member of a denomination.

To be saved one must obey what the Lord says in the Bible and not obey any of the many counterfeit false plans of salvation men, with the assistance of Satan, have devised. What does Jesus say we must do to be saved? Jesus says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). One needs help to misunderstand this. Most denominations laugh at the Lord's requirement to be baptized, in order to be saved. Jesus **did not say**, "He that believes is saved and can be baptized later in order to join a denomination. This is what men say.

What does the Lord do with the saved who have obeyed His command of "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"? In Acts 2:47 we read, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved". Notice the Bible says the Lord adds the saved to the church, **not churches**. The Lord does not add any unsaved people to His church. Since there are not unsaved people in the Lord's church, the unsaved have to go and join a man-made denominational church of their choice. But the Bible says "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalms 127:1). One's work in a denominational church is in vain and will cause him to lose his soul in the eternal torments of Hell.

God's word says, "The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). If one is lost in Hell, he will only have himself to blame, because he chose to go there. People must come out of their denominations and obey what the Lord says one must do to be saved. Then the Lord will add them to His one church, the church of Christ (Romans 16:16). It is there they can faithfully worship Him and go to Heaven when this short life is over.