

THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

Introduction:

1. The word “church” comes from the Greek word *ecclesia* (ἐκκλησία) which means, “those who are called out of” or “those who are summoned.”
2. The church built by Jesus had its beginning on the Day of Pentecost following His resurrection from the dead.

I. The Church Began with Power

(Acts 2: 1-13)

- A. The church and the kingdom are the same institution (Matthew 16: 18-19).
- B. Therefore, the beginning of the kingdom is the beginning of the church.
- C. The kingdom was to come with power during the lifetime of those who heard Jesus (Mark 9: 1).
- D. They were to wait in Jerusalem for this power (Luke 24: 49).
- E. The power was to come with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1: 9).
- F. The Holy Spirit came with power in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2: 1-4).
- G. Thus, the church of Christ was established and had its beginning on the Day of Pentecost.

II. The Church Began with Preaching

(Acts 2: 14-36)

- A. On the Day of Pentecost, the 12 Apostles preached the Gospel to the crowd (vs. 14).
- B. Peter’s sermon is recorded in Scripture.
 1. He preached honesty of character (vs. 14-15).
 2. He preached fulfillment of prophecy (vs. 16-21).
 3. He preached the resurrection of Jesus (vs. 22-32).
 4. He preached the authority of Jesus (vs. 33-36).
- C. God’s method for saving man under the New Testament is the preaching of the Gospel (Acts 5: 42; 8: 4; Romans 10: 14-15; 1 Corinthians 1: 18, 21; 9: 16).

III. The Church Began with Persuasion

(Acts 2: 37-47)

- A. Piercing – Those who heard the Gospel were cut to the heart (vs. 37).
- B. Pondering – They asked, “What shall we do?” (vs. 37).
- C. Penitence – They were commanded to repent and be baptized (vs. 38).
- D. Personal – They were instructed to save themselves (vs. 40).
- E. Persuasion – They obeyed (vs. 41).
- F. Promise – They received the gift of God (vs. 38-39).
- G. Persistence – They continued in faithfulness (vs. 42-47).
- H. Position – They were added by the Lord to the church (vs. 47).

Conclusion:

1. The Lord’s church was established on Pentecost.
2. It continues to exist wherever the Gospel of Christ is believed and obeyed.