

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Colossians 1:18**.
- B. It is possible to identify the Lord's church in much the same way we could identify a car. There are certain characteristics that can be observed and known.
- C. This lesson will deal with the names of the church and Christians, terms of entrance, worship, and creed.

I. NAMES OF THE CHURCH.

- A. There are many descriptive phrases given to identify and explain the NT church. Not just 'churches of Christ' (Rom. 16:16).
- B. These phrases are:
 - 1. The church (Col. 1:18).
 - 2. The body of Christ (Col. 1:24).
 - 3. The church of God (1Tim. 3:5).
 - 4. The general assembly and church of the first-born (Heb. 12:23).
 - 5. The way (Ac. 9:2).

II. NAMES OF CHRISTIANS.

- A. Those who are members of the one church also can wear different names to designate different attributes of the Christian life.
- B. These names are:
 - 1. Disciples (Ac. 11:26).
 - 2. Saints (Rom. 1:7).
 - 3. Brethren (2Pet. 1:10).
 - 4. Priests (1Pet. 2:9).
 - 5. Christians (Ac. 11:26; 26:28; 1Pet. 4:16).

III. TERMS OF ENTRANCE.

- A. As there is just one church, there is just one set of entrance requirements to be added to that church.
- B. To be saved (become a Christian, be a member of the church):
 - 1. Hear (Rom. 10:14).
 - 2. Believe (Heb. 11:6).
 - 3. Repent (Lk.3:3,5).
 - 4. Confession (Mt. 10:32,33).
 - 5. Baptism (Ac. 2:38; 22:16).

IV. GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH.

- A. There is an organization of the church so that it will function as Jesus would have it to do so.
- B. This structure includes:
 - 1. Apostles, evangelists, pastors, teachers (Eph. 4:11).
 - 2. Deacons (1Tim. 3:3).
 - 3. Other members (Eph. 4:12).

V. THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

- A. God has also specified exactly how He is to be worshipped and seeks true worshippers (Jn. 4:23).
- B. Formal worship consists of:
 - 1. The Lord's Supper at Sunday assemblies (Ac. 20:7).

2. Giving (2Cor. 16:1;2).
3. Singing (Eph. 5:19).
4. Devotion to God's word (Ac. 2:42).
5. Prayers (1Tim. 2:1-6).
6. Fellowship (Ac. 2:42).

CONCLUSION.

- A. The only creed to govern these activities is the NT.
- B. With the church set up as directed in God's word it will do all of what is required and will also grow.
- C. Each member must do their part according to the pattern.