

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 4:7-14**.
- B. Two special people in the OT are Abraham and Isaac. Abraham dug wells in Gerar and named them. The Philistines filled them, but Isaac later restored them (see Gen. 26:18).
- C. The church and Xianity can be compared to a well (Jn. 4:14).  
“...but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”
- D. Jesus dug the original well, when He prepared the world for His death and the coming of the church. After His ascension He sent the HS to guide the apostles in the beginning of this “well.”
- E. Unfortunately, over the years, like the Philistines, man has clogged this spiritual well and it needs to be restored.
- F. Our study tonight focuses on some of the things that need to be done to restore the original well (the church).

## I. OUR LORD BUILT ONE CHURCH.

- A. Contrary to man's thinking, there is only one church (Mt. 16:18).  
“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.”
- B. The story in Acts, chapter 2, fulfilled the prophecies concerning the coming of the church.
- C. Later, we see many different congregations, but all were of the same church.
- D. Notice the following verses (Ac. 5:11; 9:31; 1Cor. 4:17; 1Cor. 10:32; 12:28; Gal. 1:13).  
(Ac 5:11) And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things.  
(Ac 9:31) So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.  
(1Cor 4:17) For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.  
(1Cor 10:32) Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;  
(1Cor 12:28) And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.  
(Gal 1:13) For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure, and tried to destroy it;...

## II. THE LORD'S CHURCH HAS ONE HEAD.

- A. Christ has all authority in heaven and on the earth (Mt. 28:18).  
And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- B. Therefore, he is the head over all things to the church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23).  
(Col 1:18) He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.  
(Eph 1:22-23) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.
- C. Christ is the Savior of the body, the church (Eph. 5:23).  
For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.
- D. Since there is but one body, there can only be one head (Eph. 4:5).  
...one Lord, one faith, one baptism,...

## III. THERE IS ONLY ONE FAITH.

- A. It is common to hear of many faiths, but not so with the original well. All Xians were members of the same church, believing the same things (Eph. 4:5).  
...one Lord, one faith, one baptism,...

- B. The HS warned that not long after the lifetime of the apostles there would be a departure from the faith, that is, a change in doctrine that would not be from God (1Tim. 4:1).  
But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,
- C. Therefore we must be careful and pursue the one true faith (1Tim. 5:8; Jude 3).  
(1Tim 5:8) But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.  
(Jude 1:3) Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

#### IV. ONLY ONE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT (ORGANIZATION).

- A. Each congregation is locally autonomous, that is, it is self-governing. It is a simple form of organization that is to be the same for every congregation.
- B. Each congregation is to have elders and deacons serving the church (Ac. 14:23; Ti. 1:5).  
(Ac 14:23) And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.  
(Ti 1:5) For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,...
- C. Congregations that were mature enough would have elders, deacons, preachers, and teachers (Eph. 4:11).  
And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,...
- D. Members of X's church are simply called Xians (Ac. 11:26; 26:28; 1Pet. 4:16).  
(Ac 11:26) and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.  
(Ac 26:28) And Agrippa *replied* to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."  
(1Pet 4:16) but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

#### V. THERE IS ONLY ONE SPIRITUAL GUIDE.

- A. God's word is completely sufficient for all matters of life and doctrine (2Pet. 1:3).  
...seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- B. God's word is inspired and perfectly equips Xians and the church (2Tim. 3:16-17).  
All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- C. Anything more or less than the Word itself is condemned (1Cor. 4:6; 2Jn. 9; Rev. 22:18-19).  
(1Cor 4:6) Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.  
(2Jn 1:9) Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.  
(Rev 22:18-19) I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.
- D. The word is the pure seed of God and it does not need to become a hybrid (Gal. 1:8-9).  
But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

#### VI. THERE IS A PENALTY FOR CLOGGING THE WELL.

- A. The condemnation is sure for those who are by the rules and commandments of men, clogging the original well.

- B. Those so in error, are an anathema (Gal. 1:8).  
But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.
- C. Those so in error, will be rooted up on the final day (Mt. 15:13).  
But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be rooted up."
- D. Those so in error, lose both God the Father, and Jesus the Son (2Jn. 9).  
Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Is the original well important to you?
- B. Do you really believe one can clog it without penalty?
- C. Why not just be a NT Xian?
- D. May God help us restore and re-dig the original well.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.