

**The Book of Revelation
The Local Church and Christianity
Lesson V**

I THE CHURCH AND CHRISTIANITY ARE LINKED TOGETHER.

- 1 It is impossible to have “Christianity” without Christians.**
- 2 It is impossible to have “Christians” apart from Christ.**
Ill., One cannot be a wife without having had a husband.
- 3 It is equally impossible to have a local Church without true Christians.**
- 4 A Church is not a crowd, a congregation, a gathering or a building.**
A true Church is an assembly of born again Christians.

II CHRISTIANITY AND LOCAL CHURCHES HAD A HISTORICAL BEGINNING.

- 1. The local Church is not founded on myths, fables or traditions.**
2 Peter 1:16, Luke 1 :1-4. Mark 7:13 Tradition alone is useless.
- 2. Churches and Christianity are founded on actual, factual history.**
Related to real people, real places, real events. Remember we are not making progress when we ignore Church history.

III CHRISTIANITY AND LOCAL CHURCHES BEGAN IN A WORLD HOSTILE TO THEIR EXISTENCE.

- 1. A world, not merely, “non-Christian” but “anti-Christian”.**
- 2. If you can read Foxes Book of Martyrs about the early Church.**
- 3. Our kind of Christianity has not cost us much.**

IV THE CHURCH (AND CHRISTIANITY) HAS ALWAYS TREASURED THE SCRIPTURES.

Read Acts 11:26, Acts 17,10,12 etc.

Wrote Carl Henry, “Nothing but a firm adherence to Holy Scripture has ever made a sound church or an earnest Christian. The Christian message has come to us through the Bible. A Christian who does not accept the Bible is not a true Christian. The matter of authority is undoubtedly one of the most important problems of our age. According to history, the early Church accepted the Bible as their only authority. They did so because they also accepted the first fundamental doctrine: That is, The Inspiration of Holy Scripture.”

“According to the Christian view, the Bible contains an account of a revelation from God to man, which is found no where else.” In the Bible God has spoken. In the Bible God has revealed Himself in a way in which there is no equal speech or revelation. The Bible is “Holy” That means, “set-apart” from, above, beyond, all other books. There is and never has been any book in all human

history like the Bible. In man's experience, he does not move from God to Scripture, but rather he moves from Scripture to God. We must never forget—the Scriptures were given to reveal God to man. Therefore a wrong view of Scripture will produce a wrong view of God! And how we use Scripture will determine how we will live. Again, we state, the first century Christians were students of the Scriptures.

V A LOCAL CHURCH IS BUILT BY THREE MAJOR STEPS.

1. SALVATION

- a. this is always first.
- b. one who is not saved is not a Christian, therefore not a part of a true local church.
- c. see John 3:3
- d. 1 Corinthians 2:14

2 IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST.

- a. invisibly by the baptism into Christ, see 1 Corinthians 12:13
- b. visibly by water baptism. See Acts 8:38
- c. actively by the Baptism in the Spirit Acts 1:8

3. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD.

- a. "Church" means a called out assembly.
- b. see John 15:19 , 2 Corinthians 6:14
- c. There is no identification without separation
- d. Ill., Husband promises "forsaking" all others in order to be separated "unto" his wife.

When a Church leaves its separation, it soon loses its power!

VI A LOCAL CHURCH IS INSTRUCTED TO CONGREGATE.

1. Hebrews 10:25

- a. to hear the Word preached. 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- b. to keep the ordinances. 1 Corinthians 11
- c. To be edified. 1 Thessalonians. 5:11

VII CONCLUDE Regardless of current teaching, God intended every believer to have the security of a local Church, where one feels one belongs. A HOME church, Are you a builder or a burden to your local Church?