

Added to the Church?

Theme: Fundamental Questions Regarding Christ's Church

Introduction:

- A. Many Christians are continually asked by others about the church of which we belong.
- B. We might give them a name: "church of Christ" or "Franklin Church of Christ".
- C. We might share personal convictions on what/why we do, or do not do certain practices.
- D. When pressed, however, some of us may not be able to answer from the Scriptures fundamental truths about the Lord's church.

This week we look at answering the question: How are people added to the Lord's church?

Discussion:

- I. Jesus' "Great Commission"
 - A. Matthew's account. **Matt. 28:16-20**
 - B. Mark's account. **Mk. 16:14-20**
 - C. Luke's account. **Lk. 24:36-49**
- II. Jesus "commissioned" His disciples ... preach the gospel.
 - A. This is exactly what the apostles taught as initially (**Acts 2:37-41**) and subsequently by His disciples. **Acts 4:4, 8:4, 12, 35-39, 11:19-21**
 - B. When disciples preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and believers respond accordingly, the Lord (Jesus) will add to His church those being saved. **Acts 2:47**
- III. Today, many disciples fail to practice the commission.
 - A. Many have been taught, but they haven't learned to spread the good news. Cp. **2 Tim. 2:2**
 - B. Some teach everything but the pure and simple Gospel (example: doctrines that many within the body of Christ disagree which was not part of the "great commission"). Cp. **Acts 8:26-39**
 - C. It is no wonder the church is not growing in the U.S.
 - D. Population outpaces church, Bobby Ross Jr., The Christian Chronicle, , February 2007.

Conclusion:

- A. The pure gospel is easy to teach (albeit many do not respond because the world hates the truth).
- B. The last thing disciples need to do is make it even more difficult.
- C. Instead, teach exactly what Jesus told His disciples and He will add to the church those being saved.