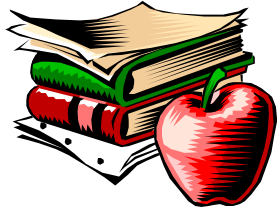


# Hunger For Truth

January 15, 2011



**"Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.**

**Proverbs 7:2**

**Matthew 5:6**

**John 8:32**

**II Timothy 3:16-17**

**Hebrews 4:2**

## **Special Interest Articles:**

- The Local vs. The Universal Church (By: H. Meyers)
- Seek Ye First in the "Children for Christ" column

## **Individual Highlights:**

Greetings, Meditate on the Word	1
Meditate on the Word	2
Meditate on the Word, Children For Christ	3
Meditate on the Word, Quotes	4
Song of the Month	5
Prayer & Praise	
Meditate on the Word	6

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"Hunger For Truth" is a monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman who is a member of Community Baptist Church of Quakertown, PA where the Pastor is Dr. David Smith.



## Greetings

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you enjoy this issue of Hunger For Truth. We are now just a few days into the new year. This month's issue is six pages due to a long but very important article.

HFT is now bi-monthly and I am excited to share truths from God's precious holy word with you. This includes studies

on the Local vs. Universal Church issue, Psalms & Proverbs, and much more!

I am really looking forward to what God can and will do in 2011 with this ministry.

See the "Special Interest Articles" section for just some of what you will see this month in the newsletter.

Also, please note that back issues of the

newsletter are available to view, print or save at [www.studytoanswer.net](http://www.studytoanswer.net).

The goal of this ministry and newsletter is to edify and encourage believers using the truth of God's precious Holy Word.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for me. I greatly appreciate your comments and I praise God for each and every one of you.

## **Meditate on The Word (Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:148)**

### **The Local Church Vs. The Universal Church – By: H. Meyers**

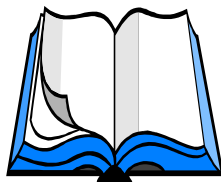
There has been a confusion amongst Bible believers that has lasted for hundreds of years. Many have been deceived for so long, they will not even hear what the Word of God really says. There are others who are not even aware of what their "so-called" churches are standing on. I am speaking about the "universal, invisible church" theory.

The word "church" occurs 77 times in the singular form, and 37 times in the plural form in the Bible. All these verses are found in the New Testament. Therefore it is one of the ten New Testament mysteries. "A mystery is defined as truth withheld from the Old Testament but revealed in the New Testament." (Landmarks of Bible Prophecy, page 54). "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." (Ephesians 5:32). Although it is a mystery, it doesn't mean that it needs to be mystical. And what would be more mystical than a "universal, invisible" church? The church was a mystery for the Old Testament saints because it had not been revealed to them yet. But it was revealed to the New Testament saints. Jesus said that He would build His church, and that He would preserve it. Nothing would prevail against it, not even the gates of hell!



## *The Local Church Vs. The Universal Church (Cont.)*

The meaning of the word "church" (*Ekklesia*) is "a lawful, organized assembly". Strong's Concordance defines it as "a calling out, a popular meeting, assembly." The very definition of the word "church" proves that it is a local church, and not an "invisible, universal" church. An assembly must be local, visible, organized, and constituted. None of these attributes could describe the "universal, invisible" church.



### Matthew 5:6

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*“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”*

### John 8:32

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*“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

The first occurrence of the word "church" is found in Matthew. *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* (Matthew 16:18). As we have learned in Bible Institute, one of the general rules of Bible interpretation is the "Law of First Mention". The first place a subject is mentioned in the Bible usually gives us the key to its meaning.

If this is going to be our key verse, let's look at its context. Starting at verse 15: *"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* Who is speaking? Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. Who is He speaking to? First he speaks to his disciples, then he turns to Simon Peter. When is this conversation taking place? He says in verse 18 that He **will** build his church. When did He actually build his church? For the ones who are confused and think that the church started at Pentecost: two chapters later, the church is already in existence. *"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the **church**: but if he neglect to hear the **church**, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican."* (Matthew 18:17). Jesus was building His church at that very moment (Matthew 16:18). He had already called His disciples back in chapter 10 of Matthew, and He was giving his instructions on how to conduct the church.

Some seem to confuse who the **rock** is. "**Peter**" (Petros) is a piece of rock, while "**rock**" (Petra) is a mass of rock (Strong's Concordance). Some assume that Peter is the rock on which Jesus built his church, but 1 Corinthians 3:11 takes care of that. *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."* From other Scriptures it is obvious that the "**rock**" is Jesus Christ. *"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and **that Rock was Christ**."* (1 Corinthians 10:4). Here is a list of verses that will show who the **rock** is without a doubt. Deuteuronomy 32:4, 15, 18; 1 Samuel 2:2; 2 Samuel 22:2, 3, 32, 47, 23:3; Psalm 18:2, 31, 28:1, 31:3, 42:9; 62:2, 6, 7, 71:3, 78:35, 89:26, 92:15, 94:22, and Romans 9:33.

*"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the **church**: but if he neglect to hear the **church**, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* (Matthew 18:15-20). This portion of Scriptures deals with problems in the church, and the proper way of dealing with them. The last resort is church discipline. And again, we see the authority of the church given by Jesus Christ. This portion of Scriptures could not possibly be speaking about an "invisible, universal" church. How could you practice church discipline if it is invisible? Nonsense!



## The Local Church Vs. The Universal Church (cont.)

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day **there were added unto them about three thousand souls**. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common. And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily **with one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**" (Acts 2:38-47). Here, Peter is preaching to the church. They had received the power of the Holy Ghost Jesus had promised in Acts 1:4 and 5. This was the greatest revival ever. Notice that they were all of one accord. Thousands of souls were getting saved, baptized, and added to the church. Once more, how can you add to something that is not yet existent?

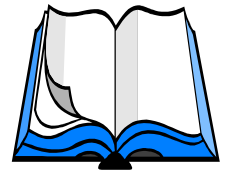
Let's look at the four characteristics of the local church or "assembly". An assembly must be **local**. Here is Webster's definition for "assemble": "To collect a number of individuals or particulars into one place, or body; to bring or call together; to convene; to congregate." A church must come together into one place. Hebrews 10:25 says "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." We are instructed in the Word of God to come together in one place. If the church is universal, how are we supposed to do that? In almost all the verses where the word "church" or "churches" appear, it speaks of a specific place or locality. For example the church at Jerusalem was a local church. "... And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles." (Acts 8:1) So was the church at Cenchrea and at Corinth. "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:" (Romans 16:1). "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth,..." (1 Corinthians 1:2). You can also look up these following verses: 1 Corinthians 14:23, 16:19, 2 Corinthians 1:1, Colossians 4:15, 16, 1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2 Thessalonians 1:1, Philemon 1:2, 1 Peter 5:13, Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18, 3:1, 7 & 14

## ☺ Children For Christ ☺ - "Seek Ye First"

**Memory Verse:** Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

**TEXT: Matthew 6:25-34**

- Fill in the blank: Therefore I say unto you, take no \_\_\_\_\_ for your \_\_\_\_\_, what ye shall \_\_\_\_ or what ye shall \_\_\_\_\_; nor yet for your body what ye shall put on. Is not the \_\_\_\_\_ more than \_\_\_\_\_, and the body than raiment (*clothing*)? (vs. 25)
- What is verse 25 teaching? A. Not to worry B. Trust God for everything C. Both A & B
- TRUE or FALSE - Since God feeds the birds, He is more than able to provide food for you. (vs. 26)
- Read vs. 26-30. Here God is saying He will supply us with what? A. Only food B. Food, drink & clothing C. Toys and games
- Read vs. 31. Briefly describe what this verse is teaching? \_\_\_\_\_
- TRUE or FALSE – God wants us to worry about having food, drink and clothing supplied to us. (vs. 31)
- Fill in the blank: (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your \_\_\_\_\_ that ye have need of all these things. (vs. 32)
- Read Vs. 33. In all that we say and do, who should we seek first? \_\_\_\_\_
- The verb "seek" implies being continually absorbed in a diligent search for something, or making a strenuous and diligent effort to obtain something. Write a sentence about how you desire to seek God first in all that you say and do? \_\_\_\_\_
- TRUE or FALSE – "The Kingdom of God" means we must seek earnestly to have the rule and power of God demonstrated in our lives and our church. (vs. 33)
- Seeking "His righteousness" means we must? A. Through the Holy Spirit's power seek to obey the Bible B. Be separated from the world and its ways C. Love others D. Both A, B & C
- Read. Vs. 34. What does this verse teach? A. Don't worry about tomorrow B. Worry and complain
- Write down at least 7 prayer requests and pray for each one carefully (people you know, needs you have, etc.)



### II Timothy 3:16-17

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

### Hebrews 4:12

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*



## The Local Church Vs. The Universal Church (cont.)

### Quotes of The Month

(Sources Unknown)

*“Atheists give their lives fighting against someone they don’t believe truly exists.”*

*“To please God, we need to see things through eyes of faith and not by sight and circumstances.”*

*“Jesus’ light shines to all who are born.” (John 1:9)*

*“The Bible is the source of ALL light, knowledge and truth.”*

*“We need to be faithful to the word, the name, the patience, and the coming of the Lord.”*

### Favorite Quotes From Our Forefathers

*“ I trust that the God of Isaac and Jacob will protect you, and give you health in my absence. In Him alone we ought to trust.”*

*[from a letter to his wife]  
Andrew Jackson, 1767-1845*

The Universalists like to use Ephesians 5:23 to prove that the church is not local. *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”* They say that it can only mean one "universal" church because there can only be one head. But what about the rest of the verse? Is there also a "universal" husband and wife? 1 Corinthians 11:3 tells us that Christ is head over many men. *“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”*

In the Bible, there are three metaphors concerning the church. A metaphor is a short similitude; a similitude reduced to a single word; or a word expressing similitude without the signs of comparison. (Webster's dictionary). The first metaphor is the **body**. *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”*(Colossians 1:18). The second metaphor is the **building**. *“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”* (Ephesians 2:20-22). The third metaphor is the **bride** found in 2 Corinthians 11:2, *“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”* As we look at each of these, we see that they must all be local. If a body is scattered or dismembered it is no longer a body. A building must be built on a foundation and in one place. A bride must be in one place.

An assembly must be **visible**. A church can not operate unless it is visible. Who has ever heard of invisible believers, invisible tithes, or invisible church discipline? *“Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?”* (1 Thessalonians 3:10). And again, the three metaphors (body, building and bride) must also all be visible.

An assembly must be **organized**. Remember the definition of "ekklesia"? "A lawful, **organized** assembly." 1 Corinthians 14:40 says, *“Let all things be done decently and in order.”* This is speaking of the church for it says in verse 33, *“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”* *“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.”*(Colossians 2:5). *“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.”*(Titus 1:5). *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”* (1 Timothy 3:15). Here again, the three metaphors must also be organized.

An assembly must be **constituted**. Constituted means, "Set; fixed; established; made; elected; appointed." Members of an assembly must meet some qualifications. Can just anyone be a member of a New Testament church? No, first they must be born again, and then baptized. It must be established. The same goes for the metaphors. The body, the building, and the bride must be made with just the right materials.

I'm sure by now, you are convinced that the word "church" in the Scriptures is not even close to a "universal or invisible" church.

Let's look for a moment at how the theory of the universal church got started. This theory is not by any means based on the Bible. The early Christians knew nothing of this theory. So, where did this theory get its origin?

The Roman Catholic church came up with the "Universal Visible" church by confusing "Church" (ekklesia) and "Kingdom" (basileia). This is Webster's definition of "catholic": "Universal or general; as the Catholic church." This is what the Roman Catholic church is based on. They confused the "kingdom of God", or the "family of God" with the "church of God". As we will see later, God's family and God's church are two different things.

So, how did we pass from a "universal, visible" church to a "universal, invisible" church? During the Reformation, when people started to see some of the heresies of the Catholic church, began to leave and start their own "churches", they had to come up with something to take the place of the "universal, visible" church. They were still confusing the "church" with the "kingdom". The "universal, invisible" church was their answer.

Here is what Dr. R.K. Maiden, former editor of the Word and Way of Missouri has to say about this theory,

*“As nearly as can be determined, the first formal, official identification of church and kingdom was projected when the Roman Empire became nominally Christian-ized, about the time of the consummation of the great ecclesiastical apostasy. It was the Ecumenical Council of Nice, called by the Emperor Constantine, that affirmed and projected as its creed the idea of a 'Catholic' World Church. From then down to the Lutheran Reformation of the sixteenth cen-tury, the universal visible theory of the church held the field, except for the scat-tered, comparatively obscure, hunted and persecuted little churches known by various names at different times –churches of the New Testament type in doctrine and policy. Following the Reform-ation period and born of the Reformation movement, there emerged a new theory of the church – the universal, invisible spiritual theory.”* (The Myth of the Universal Invisible Church Theory Exploded, page 11.)



## Song of the Month – “Lift Up the Blood”

This song is a very special song about the precious, sin cleansing blood of the Lamb. It speaks of the power of the blood and what a blessing it is to know that the precious blood of Christ cleanseth us from ALL sin! Praise God for the precious blood of Christ with me in this wonderful song:

*We talk about this and we talk about that. We talk about the weather and a lot of chit-chat. Don't you think its time we talk about the blood, the precious blood of Christ.*

*If you want a blessing well than lift up the blood. If you want a blessing well than lift up the blood. there's a mighty power when you lift up the blood, the precious blood of Christ.*

*Demon powers tremble when you lift up the blood. Demon powers tremble when you lift up the blood. Prisoners will be broken when you lift*

*up the blood, the precious blood of Christ.*

*Hallelujah let's start talking about the blood. Hallelujah let's start talking about the blood. Hallelujah there is victory in the blood, the precious blood of Christ.*

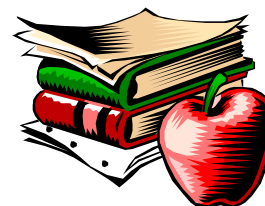
*All of heaven's for you when you lift up the blood. All of heaven's for you when you lift up the blood. Angels are rejoicing when you lift up the blood, the precious blood of Christ.*

*Getting mighty happy cause' I'm talking bout the blood. Getting mighty happy cause' I'm talking bout the blood. I can feel the Spirit cause' I'm talking bout the blood, the precious blood of Christ.*

*Hallelujah let's keep talking bout the blood. Hallelujah let's keep talking bout the blood. Hallelujah there is power in the blood, the precious blood of Christ. The precious blood of Christ.*



If you have a praise or prayer request you would like posted in Hunger For Truth, please e-mail it to me at [svtdtday@yahoo.com](mailto:svtdtday@yahoo.com)



## Praises

- I Praise and thank the Lord God for His protection and His healing of many physical needs in the Community Baptist Church body. He is indeed The Great Physician.
- I praise God and want to say thank you to each and every one of you who take the time to read this every month and to those who have sent emails or have spoken to me about how the Lord has blessed you. Please keep them coming. They are a great blessing.

## Prayer Requests

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bro. Greg Myers (recovering from heart bypass surgery)</li> <li>• Jack Vassel (newborn baby) (health) (born prematurely)</li> <li>• Gods grace, strength, wisdom and victory regarding an unspoken request for the HFT editor.</li> <li>• Those in need of employment and ones seeking other jobs</li> <li>• Pray for sale of my home in PA to make a move to Norwood, MA &amp; to find work</li> <li>• Our nation and its leaders and for revival in this land</li> <li>• Salvation of my sister Wendy and friend Ben</li> <li>• Salvation of my nephew Jacob and Aunts' Sybil and</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bernice</li> <li>• Salvation of our family, friends and co-workers</li> <li>• Wisdom regarding HFT, HFT ministries and for FT service as the Lord leads</li> <li>• Parents across this land to raise their children for the Lord</li> <li>• Health and needs of Pastors, Missionaries, and Evangelists and their families</li> <li>• Tract distribution and outreach to lost souls all over the world who were witnessed to last month for salvation</li> <li>• To give our all to the Lord Jesus Christ in 2011!</li> </ul> |
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## Praises Cont.

- Praise God for solid Local NT churches all across the land.
- Praise God for Victory in Jesus! Hallelujah, What a Savior!
- Praise God for health, safety, friends, family, and fellowship.
- I praise God for the privilege and blessing of preparing and sending this newsletter to people all across the land.
- Praise God that all we are and have belongs to Him. We should not want it any other way. The best place to be is near to the heart of God in the center of His will

Back Issues of Hunger For Truth Are available to view, print, or save at: [www.studytoanswer.net](http://www.studytoanswer.net)

If you do not wish to continue receiving this monthly newsletter, please e-mail me with "please remove" in the subject line.

### More Great Phrases: (Sources Unknown)

- "No King but Jesus"
- "KNOW CHRIST, KNOW SALVATION...FOREVERMORE!"
- "Truth Determines Results! Results Don't Determine Truth!"



## The Local Church vs. The Universal Church (Cont.)

What it really comes down to is the Universalists confuse the "Church of God" with the "Kingdom of God". And yes, the Kingdom of God is universal and invisible.

The word "kingdom" means "the power or authority of a king; a realm or a domain over which it extends." (Landmarks of Bible Prophecy, page 17) The "Kingdom of God" is also called the "Kingdom of Christ"—*"For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."* (Ephesians 5:5), and the "kingdom of Heaven" throughout the book of Matthew.

Let's compare the "kingdom of God" in the same way we did the "church". The "Kingdom of God" is universal. Unlike the "church" it is not local. It is made up of all the saints of all ages. *"Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,"* (Ephesians 3:15). *"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:6-9, 26). Therefore, it is impossible for the "kingdom of God" to assemble together in this present age.

The "kingdom of God" is invisible. It is a spiritual kingdom. Luke 17:20-21 says, *"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."* Romans 14:17 says *"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."*

There is only one "kingdom of God", but there are many local New Testament churches. The local church practices church discipline, but it is not so for the "kingdom of God". The church practices democracy while the "kingdom of God" is totally theocratic. The church has pastors and ordinances, but the "kingdom of God" doesn't. *"To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."* (Acts 1:3-7).

What about 1 Corinthians 12:13 *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."* and Ephesians 4:3&4 *"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;"* The Universalists use these two portions of Scriptures to prove their theory by wrong interpretation. They believe the word "body" is speaking of the "universal" church, but the word itself means it is local. Remember the metaphor we spoke of earlier? What did it represent? The local church.

The Universalists have come to their erroneous conclusion by starting out with an idea, and then going to the Scriptures to prove it. The Catholics said the "body of Christ" was the "universal, visible" church, and the Protestants said the "body of Christ" was the "universal, invisible" church. We must interpret Scriptures with Scriptures; not Scriptures with man's ideas. All this verse is saying is that by the same Spirit (the Holy Spirit) that lead us to salvation, we are lead to be baptized and become part of the body of Christ, the local church.

What has the "universal, invisible" church theory accomplished? It has made Jesus Christ out to be a liar. Jesus said He would build His church, but the "universal, invisible" church theory says the Holy Spirit did. They also say that the church wasn't started until Pentecost, but I proved them wrong earlier. *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."* (John 8:44).

How the devil must be laughing! He has succeeded in spreading his seeds of confusion and he is now reaping. Believers will neglect the church of God—the local New Testament church—because it is not important to them. They believe the great commission was given to individuals and not to the local church. The ordinances are not important, neither is baptism. And that might as well include their personal testimonies, too.

The Universalists refuse to believe God's Word. They would rather believe man made fables. They want to hang on to their religion. They need to repent, turn to God, and stop relying on traditions. *"God forbid: ye, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."* (Romans 3:4). *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."* (1 Corinthians 14:33).

-By: H. Meyers

Source: [www.baptistpillar.com](http://www.baptistpillar.com)

### In The Next Issue

Psalms and Proverbs study continues, plus more on the local church issue along with a devotional in the "Children For Christ" column.

Thank you for reading this. I praise God for all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and I greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

---His Servant, Craig G. – Prov. 3:5-6

