

## Series: Understanding the Body of Christ

### Tonight's Lesson: "Rightly Dividing the Body of Christ"

#### Introduction

- In time past, God worked on the earth through the agency of the nation of Israel. This is not the case today.
- Today, God is working through a living organism, a \_\_\_\_\_ creation called the church, the body of Christ.
- In tonight's lesson, we will consider three important principles in rightly dividing the church, the body of Christ.

#### Never confuse the future \_\_\_\_\_ church with the church, the body of Christ.

1. The word "church" does \_\_\_\_\_ always refer to the body of Christ. The word "church" can have a variety of applications.
  - The word "church" simply means "\_\_\_\_\_ out." It carries the idea of an assembly.
  - It is even used to describe Israel in the wilderness.  
→ *"He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years. This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us."* **Acts 7:36, 38**
2. The word "church" is used twice in the book of Matthew. 16:18, 18:17
3. The entire context of the book of Matthew is for Israel to prepare for the \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom church. Matthew 3:2, 4:17, 10:6-7, 19:27-28
4. Christ did not come to earth to establish the church, the body of Christ. He came to establish the Messianic church, in which Christ would rule and reign as \_\_\_\_\_ over all the earth. Matthew 25:31-32

## **Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ over the body of Christ.**

1. The kingdom church will be built upon the foundation of Christ, ruling and reigning on \_\_\_\_\_ as the visible Messiah. Zechariah 14:9, 16; Matthew 25:31-32
2. Today, the church, the body of Christ, is being built upon the foundation of Christ, rejected on earth, exalted in \_\_\_\_\_ places as Head of the body.  
Ephesians 1:20-23
3. The church, the body of Christ, is built upon the truth of Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ at the right hand of the Father as our heavenly Head. Colossians 1:18
4. The future \_\_\_\_\_ church will be built upon the truth of Christ, as conquering Messiah and \_\_\_\_\_. Matthew 16:15-18

## **The Holy Spirit places \_\_\_\_\_ into the body of Christ.**

1. In order to get into the body, the Holy Spirit must place you and identify you in the body. How does the Holy Spirit decide who to place in the body of Christ?
2. The Bible is clear – the Holy Spirit immediately baptizes a person into Christ the moment that person exercises believing \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ.  
Ephesians 1:12-13; Galatians 3:26-27
3. The moment a person trusts Christ, a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of God takes place, whereby the believing sinner is completely cleansed of all sin, and given the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. Colossians 2:11-13

*(Scroll down to see Bible Study chart.)*

# KINGDOM POSTPONED

