

Series: Understanding the Body of Christ

Tonight's Lesson: "Are You a Member of the One Body?"

Introduction

- In this dispensation of grace, God is forming a brand _____ organism, called the church, the body of Christ. Ephesians 3:1-6
- In this dispensation, a person is either:
 - _____ in his trespasses and sins - Ephesians 2:1
 - _____ in Christ - Ephesians 2:4-5
- God is taking believers and bringing them into spiritual _____ with Jesus Christ, and forming the church, the body of Christ. Ephesians 1:22-23
- It is absolutely crucial that every believer understands what God's Word teaches about the body of Christ. If not, we will never understand the purpose and plan of God for this dispensation of grace.
- Here is the first foundational truth that every believer must grasp:

There is only one body of Christ, not many.

1. The Bible is emphatic that every person who is saved is reconciled to God in _____ body. Ephesians 2:15-16
2. According to Ephesians 1:22-23, how does Paul define the _____? He defines it as Christ's body.
 - All who are part of Christ's body have been raised up and **seated** in _____ places. Ephesians 2:6
3. Paul is writing to a group of local assemblies in Galatia (Galatians 1:2), yet he declares that they are all _____ in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26-28).
 - You become part of the one body by _____ alone in Jesus Christ.
 - The moment a believing sinner trusts Jesus Christ, God's Spirit baptizes him into a _____ union with Jesus Christ.
 - *"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."* **1 Corinthians 12:13**

4. Local churches should be composed of individuals who have been made _____ with Christ and are members of the one body, the heavenly church.
5. The most crucial question that every person must ask himself is not, "Am I a member of a _____ church?"
6. The question is, "Have I trusted Christ as my Savior and been brought into a spiritual union with Jesus Christ, and become a member of the one body, the body of _____?"

Series: Understanding the Body of Christ

Tonight's Lesson: "When Did the Body of Christ Begin?"

Introduction

- Today, God is taking believers in Christ and placing them into spiritual _____ with Jesus Christ and forming what the Bible calls "*the church, which is his body.*" Ephesians 1:22-23
- In tonight's lesson, we will examine the subject of when the body of Christ began.
- We will examine two important truths, and hopefully, bring some clarity to this important issue.

First, the body of Christ could not _____ until the finished work of Christ was accomplished.

1. How does a person get into the body of Christ?
 - The moment people place their faith and trust in Christ's finished work, the Holy Spirit _____ into them and baptizes them into Christ. Ephesians 1:12-13, 2:8-10
 - We now possess the resurrection _____ of Jesus Christ.
 - "*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" **Romans 6:11**
 - "*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*" **Romans 8:11**
2. Here is the point: There is no way that a person could be baptized by God's Spirit into the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ until it first _____.
3. In the body of Christ, we learn that there is no Jew or Gentile. We are all one in Christ. The middle wall of partition has come down. Galatians 3:27-28; Ephesians 2:14
4. How did God accomplish the breaking down of that wall and the bringing together of Jews and Gentiles into one body? According to Ephesians 2:16, Christ accomplished this "*by the _____.*"

5. The Bible is clear: The church, the body of Christ, could not possibly begin until Christ's finished work.
 - The _____ removed the enmity of the law that would have cursed us with eternal death.
 - The _____ provides a living union with Christ for all those who believe on Him.

Second, the body of Christ was not _____ until the apostle Paul.

1. The idea of "the body of Christ," composed of saved Jews and Gentiles, is the exclusive _____ of the apostle Paul.
2. This truth was revealed to Paul after his _____ in Acts 9.
Colossians 1:24-28; Ephesians 3:1-9
3. If the church, the body of Christ, was Paul's doctrinal domain, where would we look to find sound doctrine that fits for us today? While all of God's Word is profitable, Paul's epistles (Romans through Philemon) constitute _____ doctrine for the body of Christ today.

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.

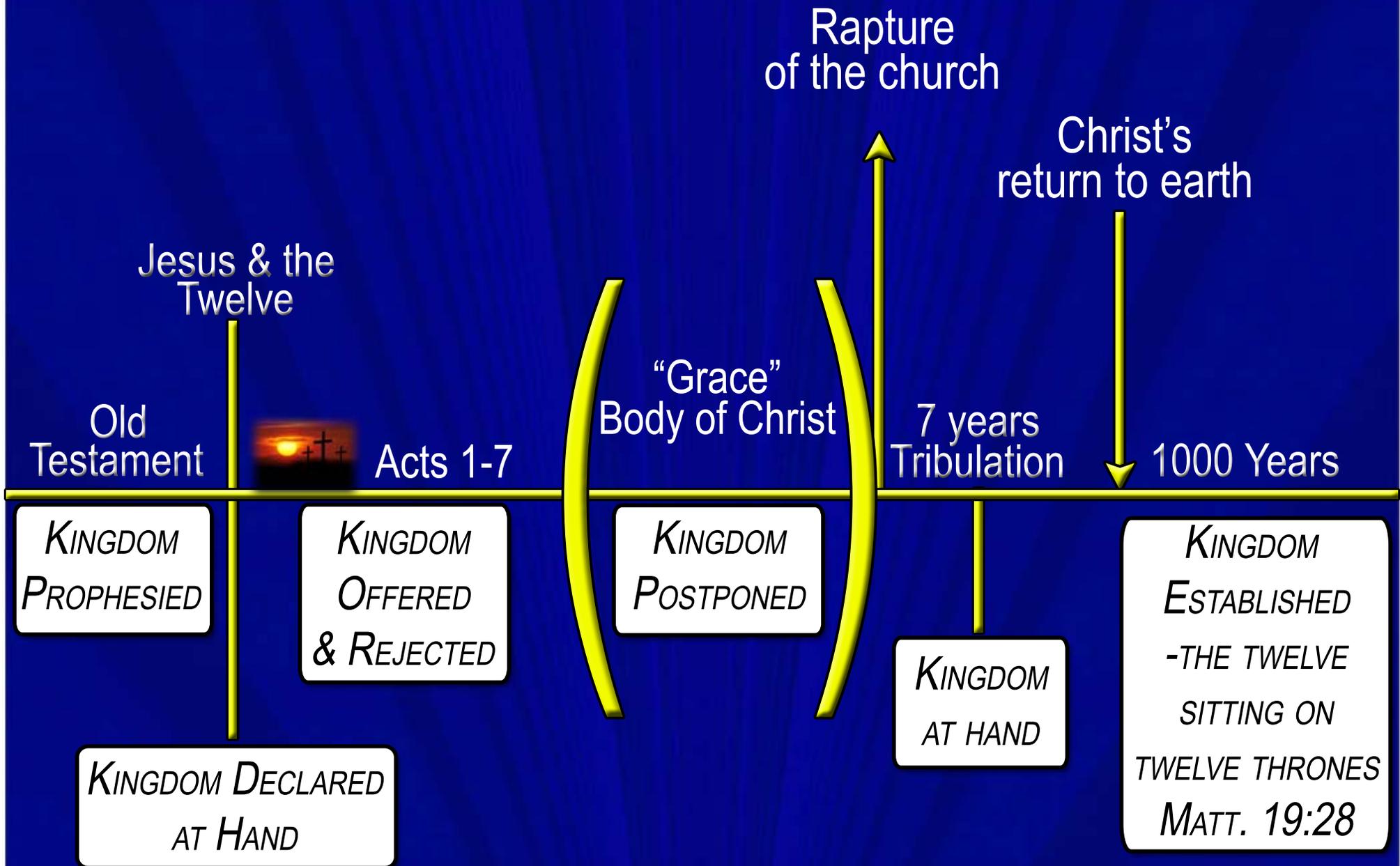
1. The kingdom church will be built upon the foundation of Christ, ruling and reigning on _____ as the visible Messiah. Zechariah 14:9, 16; Matthew 25:31-32
2. Today, the church, the body of Christ, is being built upon the foundation of Christ, rejected on earth, exalted in _____ places as Head of the 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



Series: Understanding the Body of Christ

Tonight's Lesson: "The Importance of Christ's Exaltation"

Introduction

- The body of Christ is not given earthly promises, but _____. We are said to possess all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. Ephesians 1:3
- All of these blessings rest upon the truth of Christ's exaltation in the heavenly places.
 - _____ - refers to Christ ascending into the heavenlies in His resurrection body.
 - _____ - refers to the act of the Father by which He gave to the risen and ascended Christ the position of honor and power at His own right hand. Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-23
- It is on the basis of Christ's exaltation that the body of Christ can receive spiritual blessings.

Because He has been exalted, we can have _____ of sins.

1. After Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for sins, He was exalted to the right hand of the Father and _____ down. Hebrews 10:12, 1:3, 12:2; Ephesians 1:20
2. Because Christ's sacrifice for sin fully _____ the Father, forgiveness of sin can now be offered to mankind. Acts 5:31, 13:37-39; Ephesians 1:20-2:1

Because He has been exalted, we can now receive God's indwelling Holy Spirit.

1. After Christ was exalted in heaven, He sent His Holy Spirit in Acts 2. Acts 2:33
2. Later, it was revealed through Paul that the moment a person believes on Christ, God's Spirit immediately _____ that individual. Ephesians 1:12-13, 4:30
3. Because Christ is exalted, God has shed forth the Holy Spirit _____ to those who believe on Christ. Titus 3:5-6

Because He has been exalted, we now have an _____ to God the Father.

1. What is Christ currently doing right now at the right hand of the Father?
 - *“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” Romans 8:34*
2. He is making _____ for members of the body of Christ.
 - Our Intercessor has _____. Ephesians 1:20-23
 - Our Intercessor has _____. Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16

In Conclusion

1. After He rose from the dead, Christ was exalted in heavenly places. Because we are in Christ, we too have been raised up and _____ in heavenly places. Ephesians 2:6
2. Because we are members of Christ’s body, we now possess all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. They are ours forever. How do we know this? Look at Ephesians 1:3. What are the last two words? _____!