

# 1. When Did the Christian Age Begin?

## 2. What *Specific Thing* Marked the Beginning of the Christian Age?

## 3. What Is the Main/Specific Subject of Peter's Preaching in Acts Chapter Two?

## 4. Those Who Received Peter's Gospel Message Were Added to What? [Acts 2]

## 5. Of What Are You a Member?

## 6. Into What Were You Baptized?

## 7. We Need To Tell Others About What?

## 8. Was The Church Crucified for You?

# Answer Key / Explanation

**STOP!** Before you read the answers, please fully answer the questions to the left. In this way you will learn best.

Why have I ask you these questions? It is because many in "the church", in their words and deeds, are placing more emphasis on "the church" than on the Christ! This is hypocritical. For example:

**Q1-2.** The Christian Age began when Jesus Christ shed His blood for our sins on the cross. When speaking specifically about the start of the Christian will or covenant, God said, "**even the first covenant [Moses Law] was not inaugurated** [i.e. started] **without blood**" (He 9:18). Likewise, Jesus said, "**this cup is the new covenant** [i.e. Will, Age/Epoch] **in My blood**" (Lk 22:20). So the Christian Age or the Christian *covenant* began or started when the blood of Christ was shed for our sins. It did not officially start when Christ was born, since He did not yet shed His blood for our sins. It did not start, as some say, in Acts chapter two, when 3,000 souls received the first gospel message and were baptized in the name of the Lord and added to "the church" (*this indicates an improper emphasis on "the church", in saying that the Christian Age started when "the church" started*). It did not start, as the "Pentecostal Church" says, in Acts chapter two, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles (*this indicates an improper emphasis on the baptism of the Holy Spirit or the gift of tongues*). So, the specific thing that marked the beginning of The Christian Age was the blood of Christ.

**Note:** Here is a story to illustrate my point. In 2011, I went to a Wednesday evening Bible study at a "church of Christ" in Pennsylvania. It was my very first time at this specific congregation. The preacher was very old. He was an elder brother. He was teaching from the book of Genesis, and somehow made a passing reference to "The Christian Age". And so, I raised my hand to ask him a question about The Christian Age. I said, "May I ask a question?" He said, "Yes". I said, "You mentioned The Christian Age; what was the **specific** thing that marked the beginning of The Christian Age?" He then began to eagerly tell me all about "the church"; when it started in Acts 2, about how people were baptized and added to "the church" on the day of Pentecost. He spent several minutes telling me about this, although it was not the specific subject of his Bible study that evening. While he was telling me about the church, how it started, I whispered in my daughter's ear, saying, "Did he answer my question correctly?" She shook her head "No". Now Joelle is only fourteen years old, and she knows that the Christian Age started with the shedding of Christ's blood for our sins. I have taught her this years ago. This elder teaching brother ought to have known that it is all about the blood of Christ, not "the church". And if a youth can understand these things, there is no excuse for any of us who are older to misunderstand these things. Now when this minister was answering my question, a woman in the front pew eagerly told the preacher, "Give him your written lesson from last Sunday about it". So, a man got up and retrieved the lesson from the preacher and came and gave it to me. It said that the "Christian Dispensation [Age/Epoch/Covenant] was established on Pentecost, in Acts 2)". Amazing! I asked one simple question. The preacher did not answer it correctly. They assumed, from my question, that I must know nothing about "the church". I must not speak their language. I must not speak their vocabulary. I must not glorify the church over the Christ. **But someone in "the church" might say,** "But in Acts chapter two, the blood of Christ was first applied in the first baptisms! Brethren, there is a difference between God applying the blood and God shedding His blood. Will you demonstrate a proper understanding of the two? Now the reason why this group is tempted to emphasize the church over the Christ, over His blood, is directly related to the sin of partiality [favoritism] towards names/church names. To study this further, get a free copy of my Bible Study on True Worshipers, "For Such People the Father Seeks to Be His Worshipers" (Jn 4:23).

**Q3-4.** Those who accepted Jesus, through Peter's preaching, were added to the saved, not the church. The subject of Peter's preaching and teaching was to "**be saved**", for we read, "**And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation!'**" (Ac 2:40). And those that received his message were baptized and the Lord added about 3,000 souls (Ac 2:41). To what were they added? It was to the saved (Ac 2:40). Even more, the conclusion of the passage is this: "**And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved**" (Ac 2:47). God added to the number of those being saved. The *subject* of the book of the Acts of the Apostles is how to get saved, how to make or become a disciple of Christ. That is what we need to emphasize as we read and teach the book of Acts. It is a book about getting saved through the preaching of the

gospel of Jesus Christ, especially in Acts chapter two. It is not a book about how to become a member of "the church". It is not a book about how to receive a gift of the Holy Spirit, such as "tongues". That is not what the apostles preached or emphasized in the book of Acts.

**Q5.** You should have answered that you are a member of Christ. This is the ultimate answer. In our words, we need to place the importance on being a member of Christ.

**Q6.** We are baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27), not the church!

**Q7.** We need to tell others about the Christ, not the church. For example, Paul said, "**we do not preach ourselves** [the church] **But Jesus**" (2 Cor 4:5). "**But we preach Christ crucified**" (1 Cor 1:23).

**Q8.** No.

**Note:** Here are a few more stories to show you how bad it has become in this brotherhood of which I am speaking. Sometime in the first decade of the year 2,000, they attempted to begin a new evangelistic work on television, called, "The Gospel Broadcasting Network" (GBN). In their newsletter, on the feedback page, one brother wrote in and said something like this, "Our elders showed your video about the GBN to our congregation the other day... We need someone [like you] to **preach the church** against the tide.". There it is again. Did you see that? He said we need to preach "the church". But Paul said he did not preach "**ourselves**" but "**Christ crucified**". No one will truly be saved if you do what this brother wanted GBN to do, to preach the church. Do you see the folly of this improper emphasis on the church over the Christ? Is one truly in "the church" if he says we need to "preach the church"? In a **different example**, one elder brother from Texas, in response to their new preacher conducting Bible studies in the community, said this to me, "**We need to tell them about the church!**". To him it was all about "the church". He placed no importance on the Christ or getting saved. He was mainly concerned about people coming to know the church. How sad indeed!

**Now, What Is the Point of This Lesson?** It is to encourage you to stop placing more emphasis on the church than on the Christ. Examine your emphasis! "**I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise**" (Isa 42:8). "**For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another**" (Isa 48:11). In your preaching and teaching, in your baptizing, in your church planting efforts, in your conversion efforts, in your evangelistic reports, get in the habit of placing the importance, the emphasis on Christ and being saved, not the church. Jesus said, "**You fools and blind men! Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold?**" (Mt 23:17). Likewise, ask yourselves which is more important, the church (eg. gold) or the Christ (eg. temple)? Examine your speech! Christ will not give His glory to another, not even to His church! Stop glorifying the church over the Christ. I urge you to make this the essential part of your Christian life. Put the emphasis Christ, not the church! Jesus taught us that to be worthy of Him, we need to love Him more than any other, even the church. Show it in your words. Glorify Him, not the church. "**My glory I will not give to another**" (Isa 48:11). **Emphasize Christ! In Jesus' name, Rick David, an Evangelist.**

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Was the church crucified for you?



Which Is More Important,  
Obedience or Sacrifices?

Which Is More Important,  
Love or Knowledge?

Which Is More Important,  
Sacrifice or Compassion?

Which Is More Important,  
Faith With or Without  
Works?

Which Is More Important,  
Receiving Salvation or a  
Gift of The Holy Spirit?

Which Is More Important,  
A Man or A Woman?

Which Is More Important,  
The Gold or The Altar?

Which Is More Important,  
The Temple or God?

Which Is More Important,  
The Plate or The Body?

Which Is More Important,  
The Blood or The Cup?

Which Is More Important,  
The Old or The New  
Testament?

Which Is More Important,  
Loving God or Doing  
What He Said?

# THE CHURCH



# OR THE CHRIST?



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