

Preacher's Pen
Sunday, May 14, 2006

Church History: The First Two Millenia

"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.", (Acts 2:41-42)

Last week we began a series of lessons regarding the history of the Church by defining religion, establishing Biblical authority, and reading from the Bible that Christ established just one Church – over which He and He alone is head.

Today we will read of the Biblical account of the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth, the Bride of Christ; His Body; His Church. It is quite easy to see that from the beginning there was only one church. It is also just as easy to read from Scripture how even before the close of the first century many had left the doctrine taught by Christ and His apostles – to establish their own followings; their own churches.

We will take a brief look through the pages of history at a few significant points in history where departures from sound doctrine resulted in the creation of well known churches – many which continue today in full force, some with followings in the millions.

While we are determined to be of sound doctrine, let us also be just as determined to not have it said of us as Jesus said of the Pharisee, *"Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel."* (Matthew 23:24).

Next week, we will study from the Bible how Scripture has said one is added to the one Church of Christ and how we can know for certain this is what He Himself wants. We will read clearly what one must do if he/she wants to spend eternity with Christ in His Kingdom.

In Christian Love and Service,
Lyndal