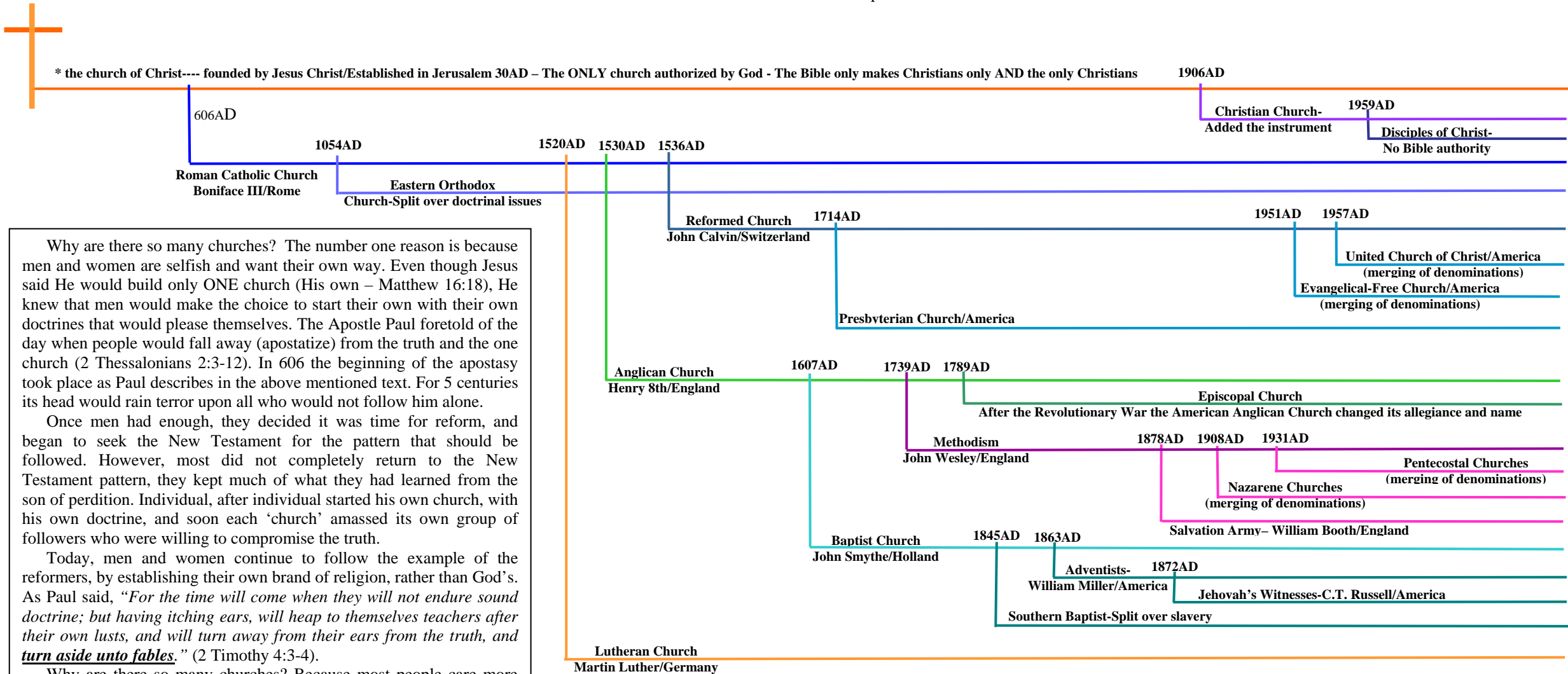


# Why are There So Many Churches?

\* established church—founder/place established



Why are there so many churches? The number one reason is because men and women are selfish and want their own way. Even though Jesus said He would build only ONE church (His own – Matthew 16:18), He knew that men would make the choice to start their own with their own doctrines that would please themselves. The Apostle Paul foretold of the day when people would fall away (apostatize) from the truth and the one church (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12). In 606 the beginning of the apostasy took place as Paul describes in the above mentioned text. For 5 centuries its head would rain terror upon all who would not follow him alone.

Once men had enough, they decided it was time for reform, and began to seek the New Testament for the pattern that should be followed. However, most did not completely return to the New Testament pattern, they kept much of what they had learned from the son of perdition. Individual, after individual started his own church, with his own doctrine, and soon each ‘church’ amassed its own group of followers who were willing to compromise the truth.

Today, men and women continue to follow the example of the reformers, by establishing their own brand of religion, rather than God’s. As Paul said, “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts, and will turn away from their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables.*” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Why are there so many churches? Because most people care more for fables, than they do the truth. Jesus said, “The MAJORITY will walk down the broad way that leads to destruction, but only a FEW will go down the narrow way that leads to eternal life” (Matthew 7:13-14). The question that all honest men and women must ask themselves is this – Do I want heaven? If so, you must be added to the true church by God.

The church that Jesus Christ said He would build was established in the city of Jerusalem, on Pentecost 30AD (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:38-47)

Jesus and His Apostles foretold that men would leave the truth and design their own brand of righteousness (Matthew 7:15; 1 Timothy 4:1)

## Marks that Establish God's True Religious Body

The question that should be upon the mind of every seeker of heaven is this — *“of all the multitude of churches (Catholic & Protestant) in the world, which one does God authorize to exist today?”* Consider if you will what Jesus commissioned His twelve Apostles to do; *“Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things”* (Luke 24:46-48). In 30AD, on Pentecost, the church that Jesus said He would build has its beginnings as the Apostles received power from the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel (Acts 2). That day, 3,000 souls made the decision to put Christ on in baptism and God **ADDED** them to the church (Acts 2:47).

As the Apostles obeyed Jesus in taking the good news into all nations and establishing His church, did they establish twelve different churches with each teaching different doctrines? Or did they establish only one church—Christ's church—the only church authorized by God to teach one and the same doctrine everywhere it was established? Even Paul, when being added among the Apostles by Christ, taught the same doctrine as the original twelve, and established the same church. We have this record from Paul when the Corinthians began dividing themselves into separate groups, *“I beseech you, brethren, by the name of (authority of) Jesus Christ, that **YE ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING, and that there be NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”*** (1 Corinthians 1:10). This warning by Paul should alarm us today, not to be divided into different religious groups; but instead to be looking

for the one true church as found in the first century.

Jesus prayed that ALL of His followers would be united (John 17:20-21), as He and the Father are united. The only way for us to receive a heavenly home is by obeying our Lord and stop dividing ourselves by creeds and doctrines of men. God has instructed us to put everything to the test (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18). Paul said there is “ONE” body, which is the church (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Because the devil wants us as his own, he has tempted men into establishing their own doctrines and churches to confuse us. How can we know which church is right and which is not? Simply by following the pattern set down by God in His Word (Bible).

Why Be Added to the church of Christ by God?

1. Because Jesus said He would build His “church” (singular) (Matthew 16:18).
2. Because Jesus is the only founder of His church (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20). He is the ONLY head of His church.
3. Because Jesus is the only man who shed His blood for His church (Acts 20:28).
4. Because Christ's church was founded in the city of Jerusalem according to prophecy (Isaiah 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-2; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 2).
5. Because any church not founded by Jesus Christ, not established in 30AD on Pentecost in the city of Jerusalem is not the one true church of the New Testament, and therefore is a counterfeit.
6. Because it is the “church of Christ” because it belongs to Christ. Christ is its head. Christ is its founder. Christ shed His blood for the church – therefore, should His name not be on it?
7. Because it is the “body of Christ” because as a living organism, each and every member (true New Testament Christian), has a part to play in maintaining its function (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23).

8. Because it does not self exalt itself with titles such as Pastor, Reverend or Father.
9. Because its headquarters are found in heaven alone.
10. Because its congregations are autonomous.
11. Because its leadership is among the men of each congregation who meet God's qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-13).
12. Because its only creed is the New Testament
13. Because its only allegiance is Christ.
14. Because it has no clergy, because all Christians are ministers.
15. Because every member is a saint and a priest
16. Because the church that Jesus built is “anti” denominational in that it stands opposed to denominationalism which advocates the sin of division (Galatians 5:19-21).
17. Because it gives book, chapter and verse for everything that it teaches so that all may know for certain whether they are receiving the truth or error.

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Concerning.....

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Churches?**



By Michael S. Demory