

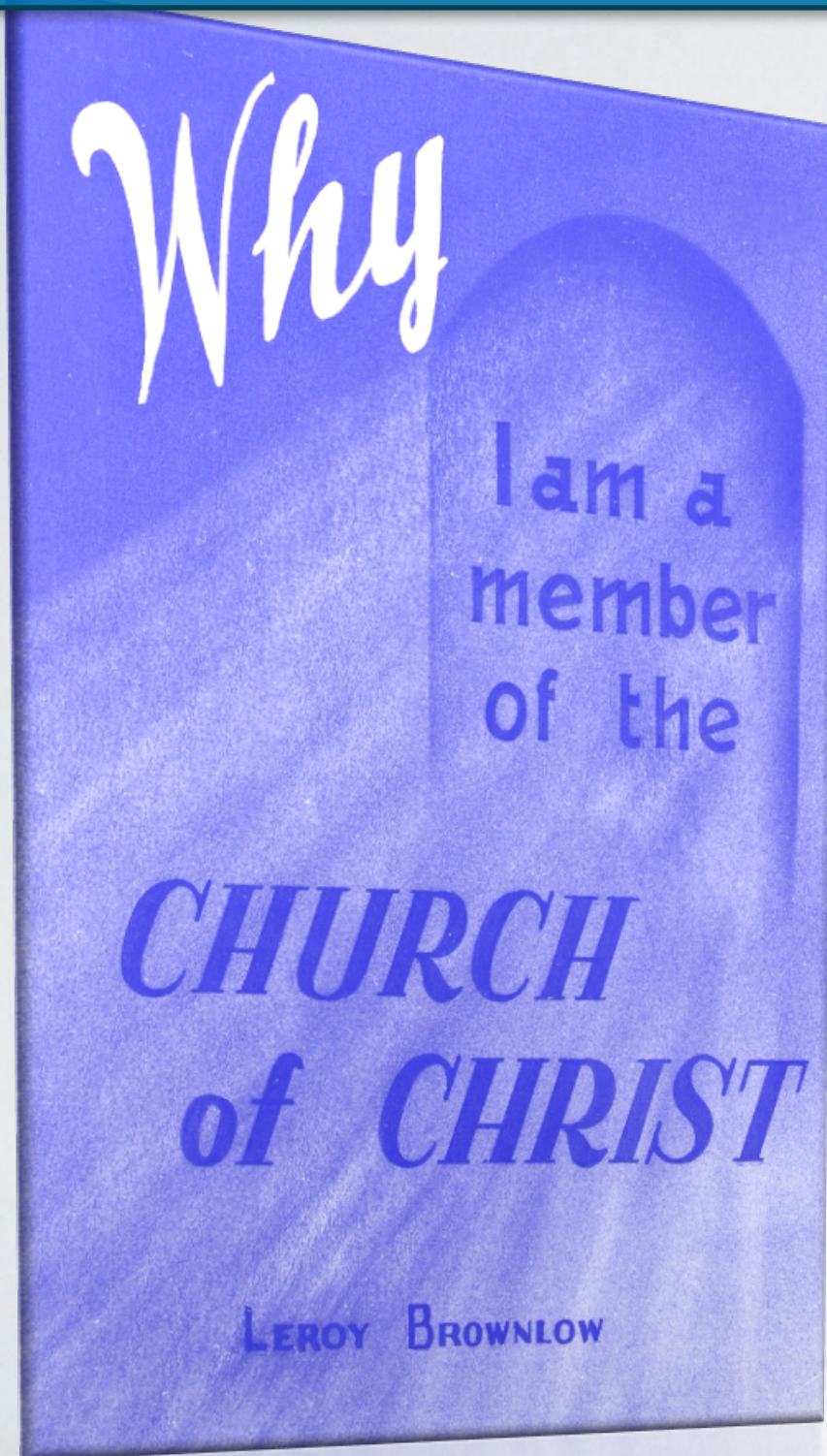
WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”



Matthew 16:18,19
Acts 2:21-47
Ephesians 5:22-32
1 Corinthians 1:10-13

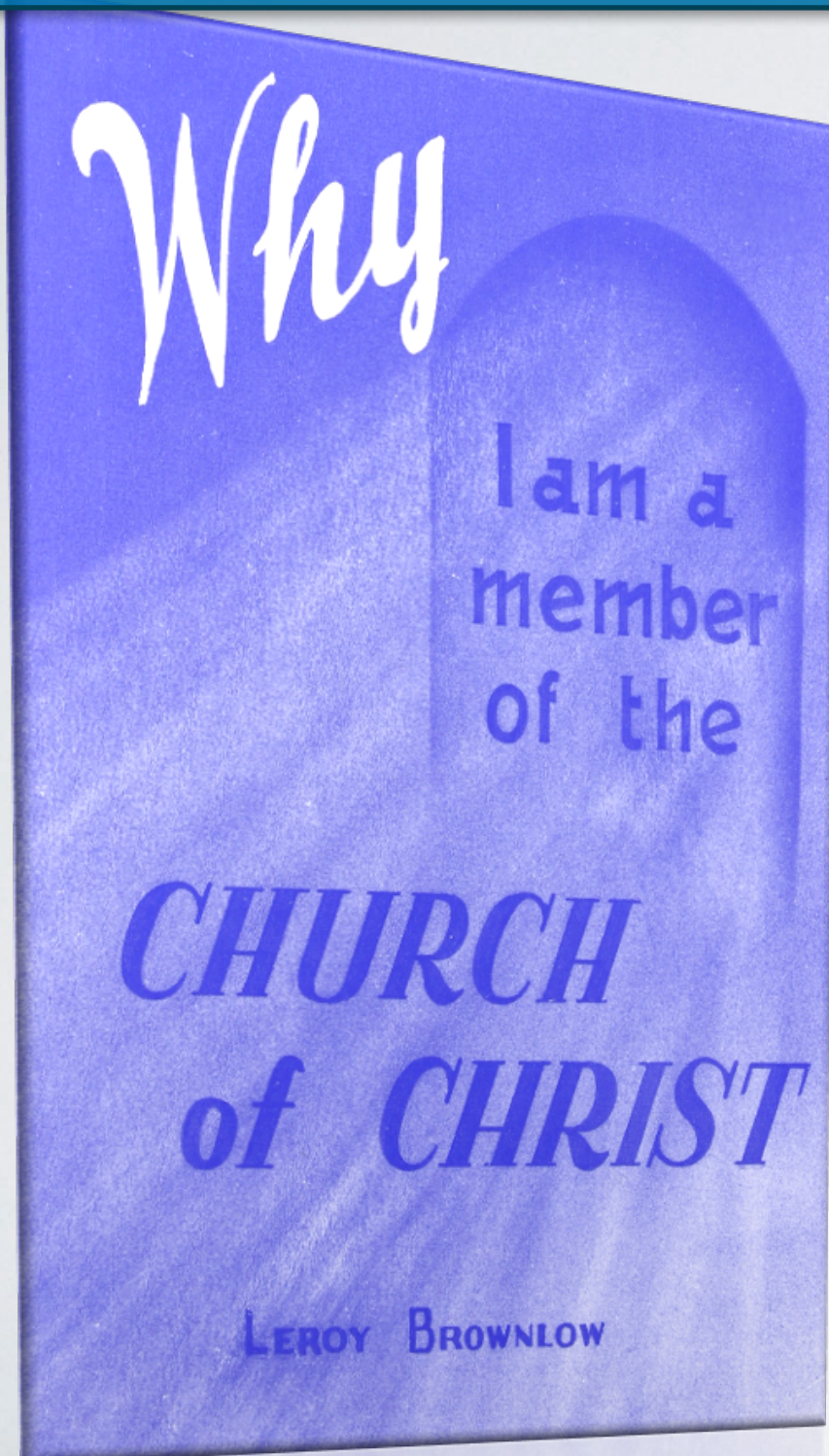


WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?



- NOT asking why you should leave one denomination and join another! (WE SHOULD LEAVE ANY & EVERY “DENOMINATION!”)
- NOT asking why you should leave one organization and join another organization (THE CHURCH [BODY] of CHRIST is NOT an ORGANIZATION!)

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?



- What do I mean by the phrase “CHURCH OF CHRIST?”
- We need to understand the term church (*ekklesia* (ἐκκλησία, 1577) according to its original Biblical meaning and usage. — Those called out of the world by the gospel and therefore belong to Christ. (The body of Christ; the people who belong to Christ)
- All denominational concepts need to be eradicated from our thinking & terminology!

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

What do I mean by the phrase “CHURCH OF CHRIST?”



Matthew 16:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”



“I will build My church”

The

- Definite Article / Singularity
- Mat 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph 4:4

Church

- Ecclesia / Called Out
- Mat 16:18; Acts 19:32; Rom 16:16

of

- Possessive / Belonging To
- Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 1:1

Christ

- Messiah / Savior / Lord / Jesus
- 1 Cor 3:23; Gal 5:24

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

ITS HEAD & SAVIOR IS JESUS



Ephesians 5:22–23 (NKJV)
22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.
(*cf. Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23*)

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

ITS HEAD & SAVIOR IS JESUS



■ UNIVERSAL CHURCH

- ▶ “I will build MY CHURCH”
(Matt. 16:18)
- ▶ “He is also head of the
BODY, the CHURCH”
(Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23)
- ▶ “There is ONE BODY”
(Eph. 4:4)

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

ITS HEAD & SAVIOR IS JESUS



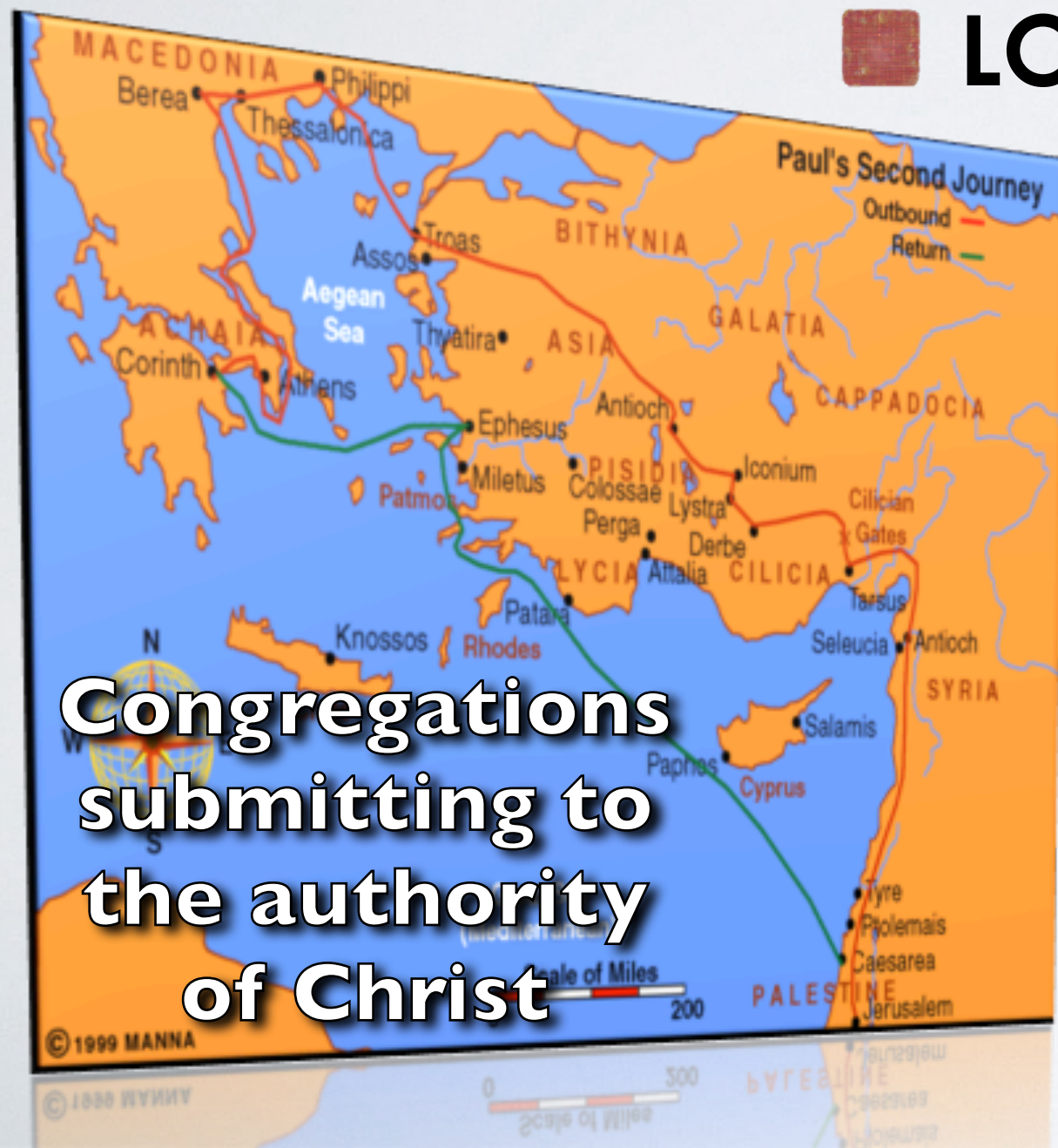
■ LOCAL CHURCHES of CHRIST

- ▶ “church of God which is at Corinth” (1 Cor. 1:2)
- ▶ “church of the Thessalonians in God” (1 Thess. 1:1).
- ▶ “churches of Galatia” (1 Cor. 16:1).
- ▶ “churches of the saints” (1 Cor. 14:33).
- ▶ “churches of Christ” (Rom. 16:16).
- ▶ “the churches” (Acts 8:3; 15:41, etc).
- ▶ Seven churches of Asia (Rev. 2,3)

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

ITS HEAD & SAVIOR IS JESUS

LOCAL CHURCHES of CHRIST



**Congregations
submitting to
the authority
of Christ**

- ▶ Christians of a local area who agree to join together in fellowship (Acts 9:26).
- ▶ Who worship in a common assembly (1 Cor. 11:18)
- ▶ Who work out of a common treasury (1 Cor. 16:1-3)
- ▶ Who submit to a common oversight (Acts 14:23; 20:28)

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

ITS HEAD & SAVIOR IS JESUS



- The church universal is NOT made up of denominations, NOR is it made up of local churches but saved individuals!
- Every true Christian, (saved person), is a member of the church of Christ (Jn 15:5; Acts 2:47; Ep. 5:25)
- Every Christian should seek to be a member of a local church that follows Jesus according to His revealed will (Acts 9:26-28)

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO JESUS



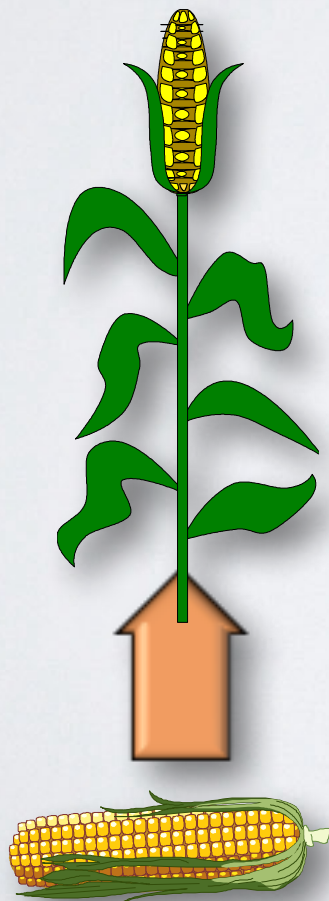
Ephesians 5:24 (NKJV)
24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF
“THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”



THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO JESUS

Corn



Apple



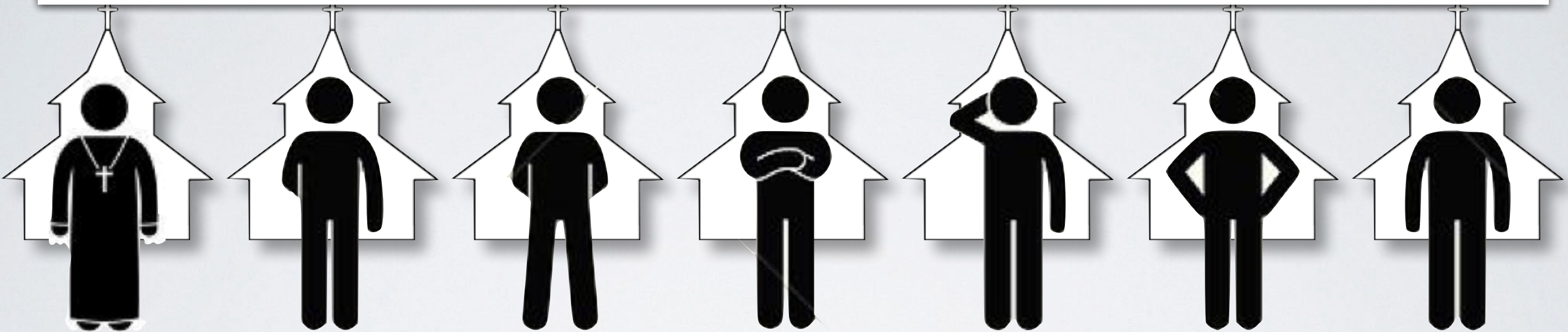
Acorn



WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?



THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO JESUS



Catholic

J. Witness

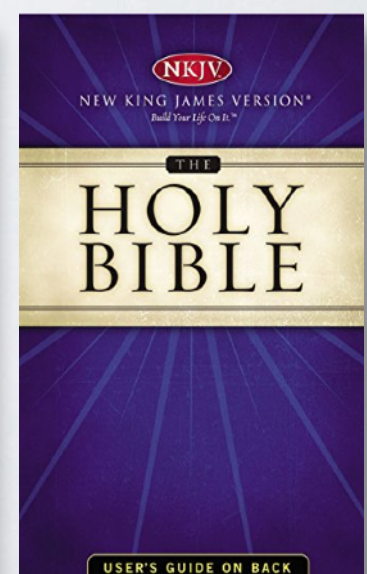
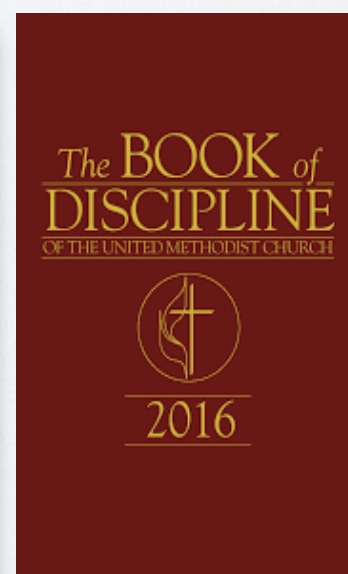
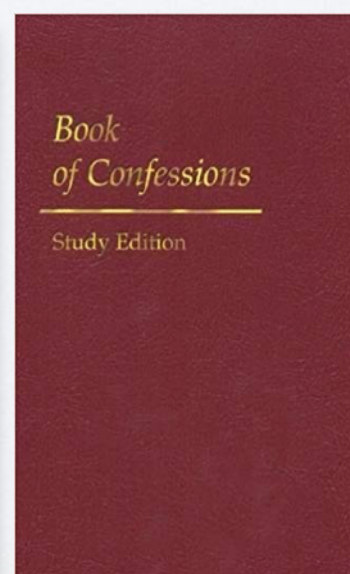
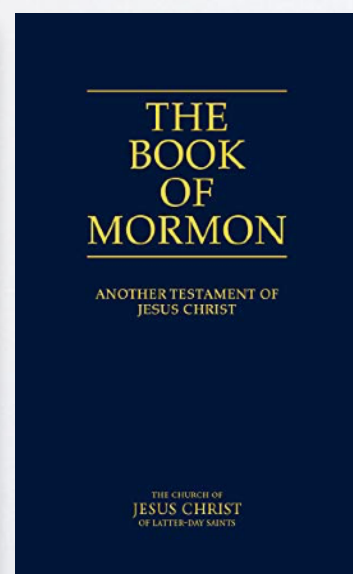
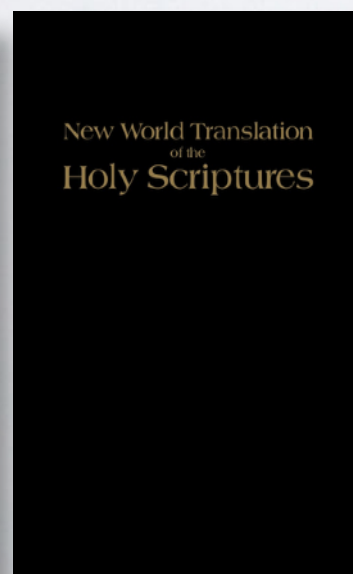
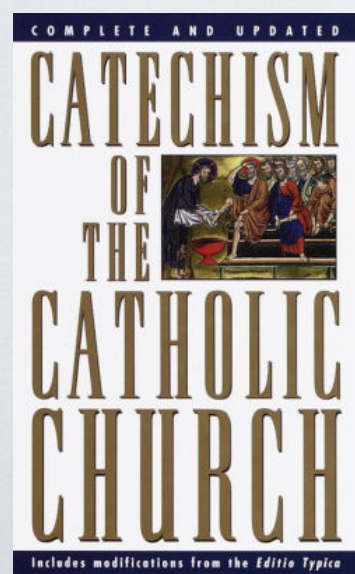
Mormon

Presb.

Methodist

Baptist

The Lord's



WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO JESUS



- Human Denominations add to the Bible or take away from the Bible – (Confessions, Disciplines, Rules of Faith, Creed Books; Party Statements, etc.)
- ONLY individuals and local congregations that follow Jesus’s teaching as revealed in the Bible are truly “OF HIM!” (Jn 8:31,32; 2 Tim 3:16,17; 1 Pet 4:16; Col 3:17; 1 Jn 2:3-6).

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

THOSE WHO ARE CLEANSED BY JESUS

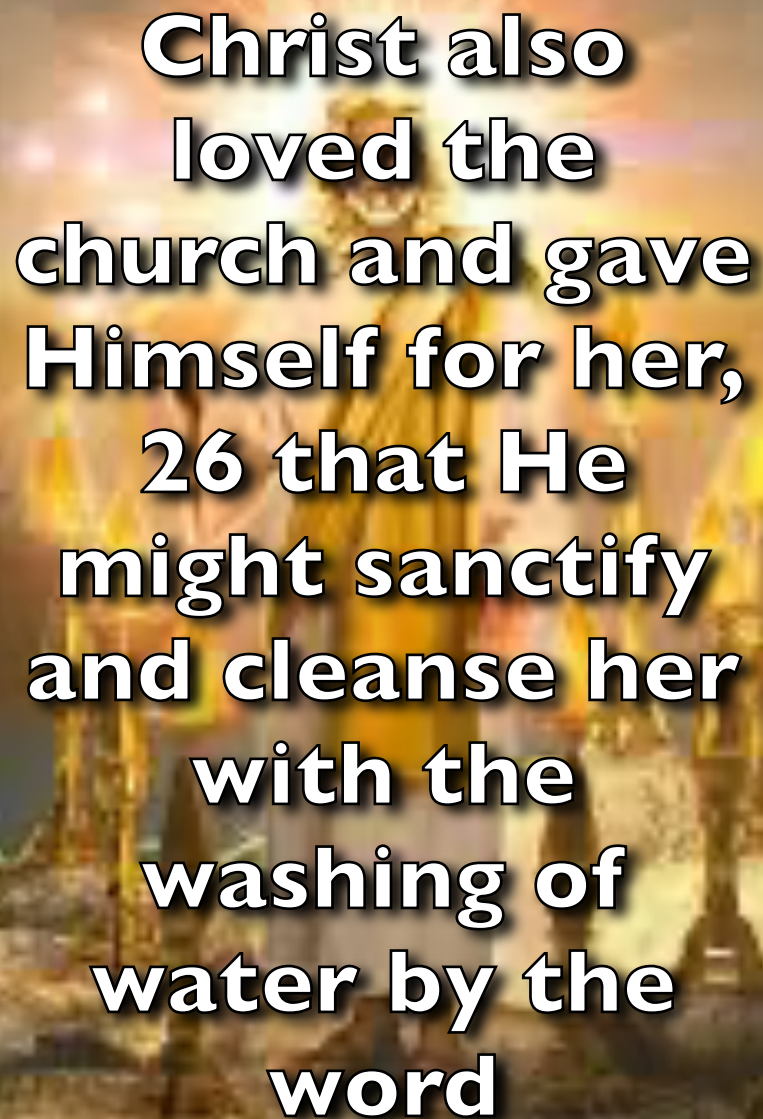


Ephesians 5:25–26 (NKJV)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

THOSE WHO ARE CLEANSED BY JESUS



**Christ also
loved the
church and gave
Himself for her,
26 that He
might sanctify
and cleanse her
with the
washing of
water by the
word**

- Because Jesus loved us, He gave Himself that He may save those who submit to Him (Mat. 26:28; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Col. 2:12,13; Heb. 5:8,9)
- “Washing of water by the word” — Our sins are washed away when we are baptized into Christ according to His word (cf. Jn. 3:5; Acts 2:38,47; 22:16; Titus 3:5; Col. 2:12,13; etc.)

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

THOSE WHO WILL BE GLORIFIED



Ephesians 5:27 (NKJV)
27 that He might present her
to Himself a glorious
church, not having spot or
wrinkle or any such thing,
but that she should be holy
and without blemish.

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

THOSE WHO WILL BE GLORIFIED



- The church is betrothed to Christ and must remain faithful to Him (2 Cor. 11:2-4; Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 2:11-13)
- The unblemished church will be presented to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:26-27; Rev. 19:7; 21:2,9).

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?



■ AS INDIVIDUALS



- ▶ Is Jesus your “HEAD” — Have you given Him complete control and authority over your life? (cf. Luke 6:46)
- ▶ Have you submitted to His will? — Have you trusted Him enough to confess Him, turn to Him as Lord, and obey His command to be baptized? (Acts 2:38)
- ▶ Are you being faithful to Him by continuing to follow His teaching? (John 8:31,32)

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?

■ AS A CONGREGATION



- ▶ Is Jesus OUR “HEAD” — submitting only to His authority for all we teach, preach and practice? (Plan of salvation / Worship / Organization / Work?) (Col. 3:17)
- ▶ Anti-Denominational — United upon His word in faith, teaching & practice? Rejecting the doctrines and commandments of men? (Mt. 15:7-9; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Col. 2:8)

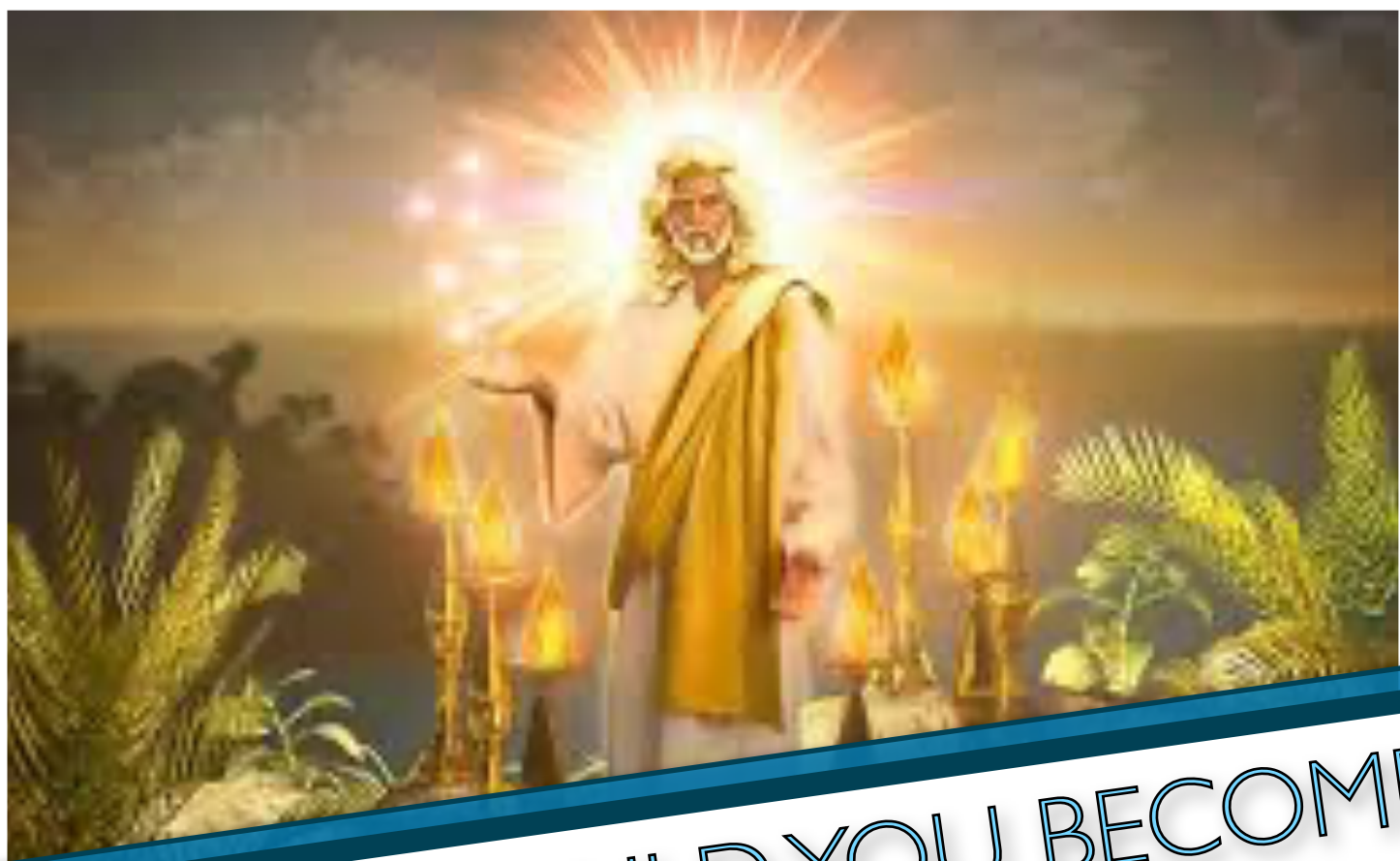
WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”?



■ BECAUSE ...



- ▶ ITS HEAD & SAVIOR IS JESUS!
- ▶ THE CHURCH OF CHRIST CONSISTS OF ALL WHO SUBMIT TO JESUS!
- ▶ THE CHURCH OF CHRIST CONSISTS OF THOSE WHO ARE CLEANSED BY JESUS'S BLOOD!
- ▶ THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WILL BE GLORIFIED AS THE SPOTLESS BRIDE OF CHRIST!



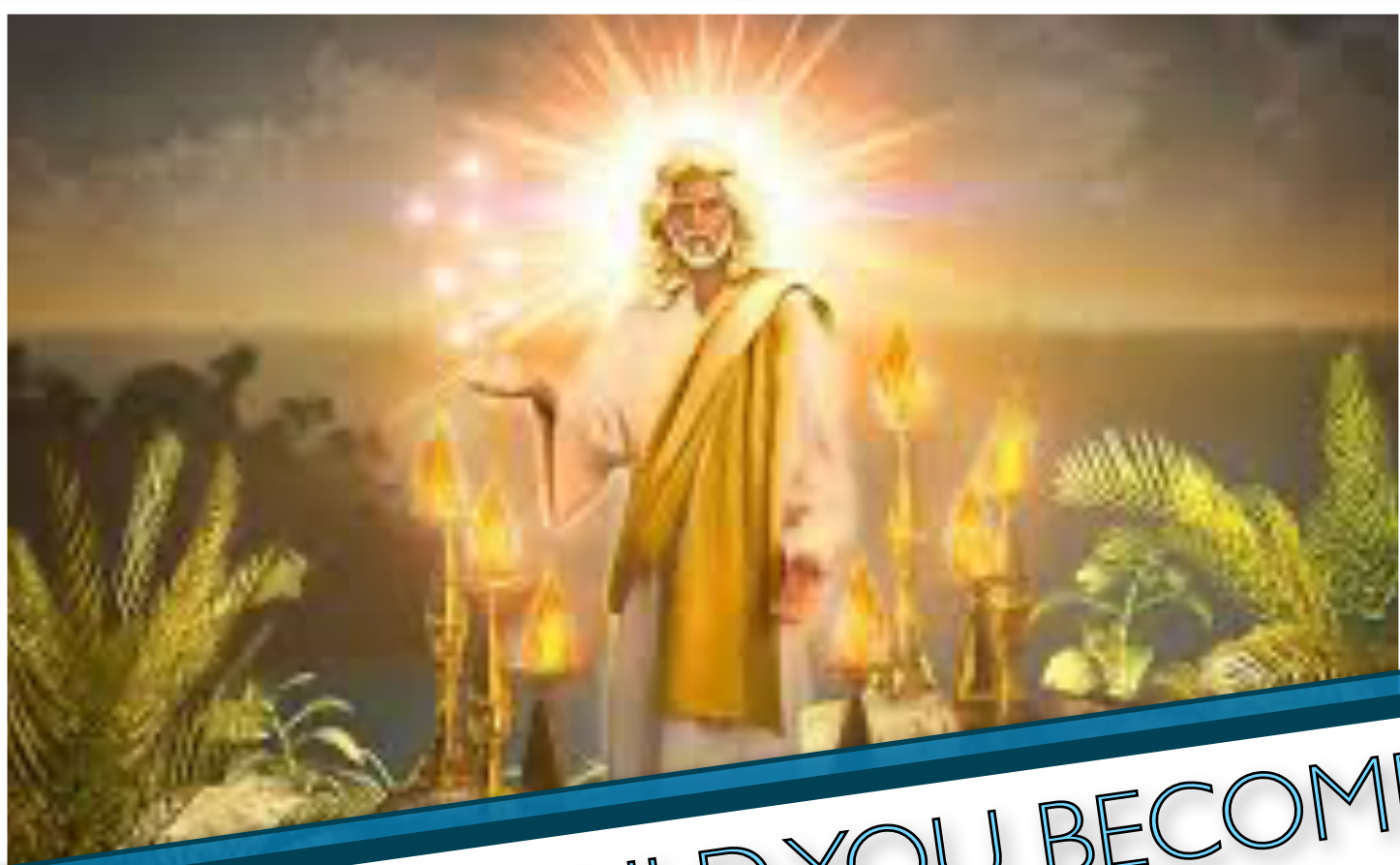
WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF
“**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**”



Matthew 16:18,19
Acts 2:21-47
Ephesians 5:22-32
1 Corinthians 1:10-13



**CAN YOU GIVE ONE
GOOD REASON TO BE
A MEMBER OF ANY
OTHER CHURCH?**



WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”



Charts by Don McClain

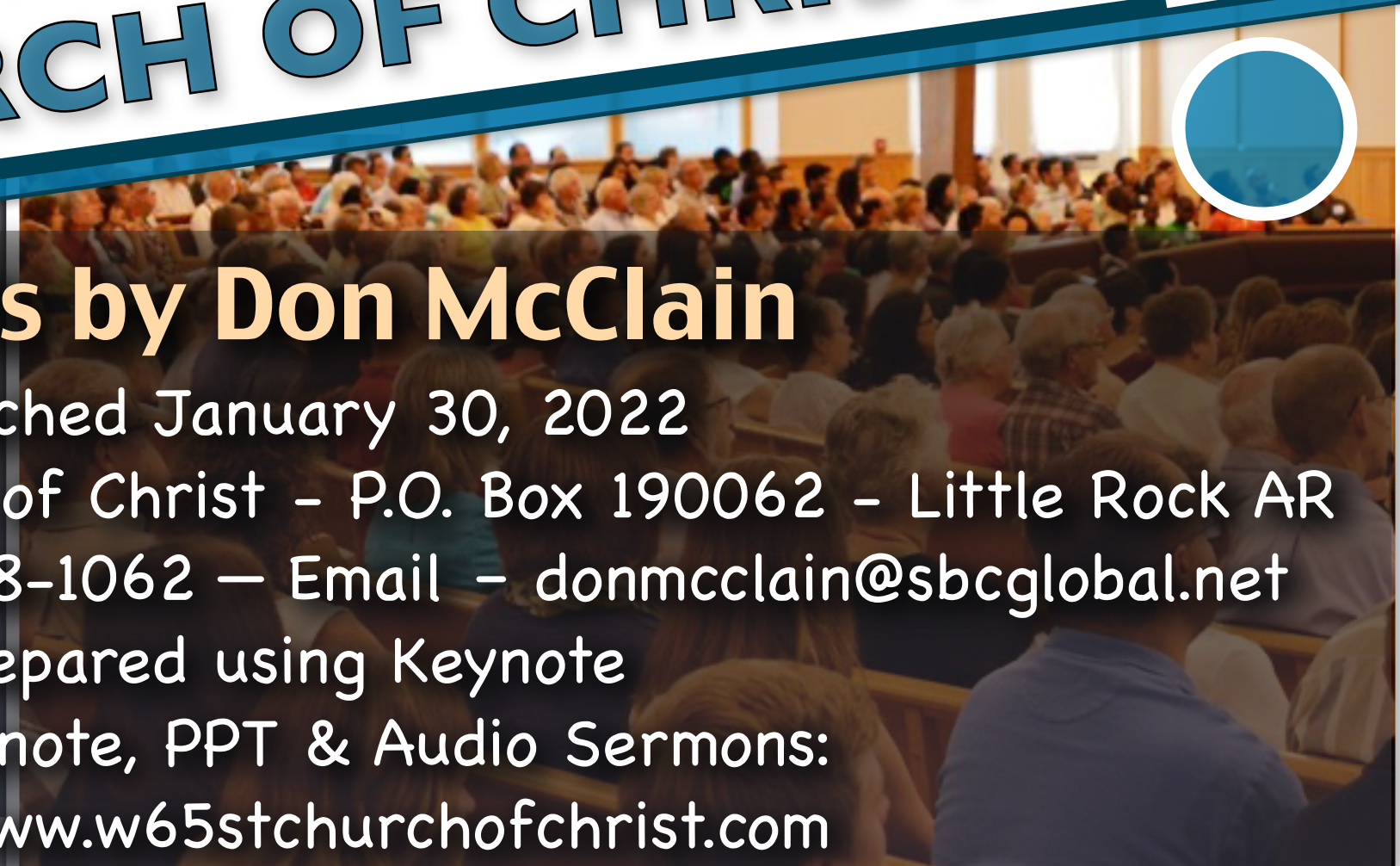
Preached January 30, 2022

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Matthew 16:13–19 (NKJV)

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “**Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?**” ¹⁴ So they said, “Some *say* John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**” ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”