

Let my people go! Ministry of Cpt. Gordon Nelson The Old Ship of Zion

Only believers are "content with such things as ye have" (Heb. 13:58)

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What is the Church? The 21ST Century Church is built upon the Petros (GK.-A PIECE OF ROCK)

By Gordon F. Nelson

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (Gk.-Petros, a piece of rock), and upon this rock (Gk.-petra, a mass of rock) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18)

Catholicism's View

Matthew 16:18 is one of the most misunderstood scriptures in the Bible, both by Catholics and Protestants. Catholics teach the doctrine of "apostolic succession" of the Papacy based on Peter being the first Pope due to this one scripture.

Protestant's View

Protestants, on the other hand, ignore the "petra rock" (a mass of rock) completely. Both interpretations are in error.

The concentration of the Protestants is on Peter's confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (Matt. 16:16) Jesus was actually telling Peter (Gk.-Petros) he was a piece of the larger mass of rock, referring to His twelve disciples. Jesus believed in a local church autonomy with 13 members. Because this local assembly was so organized within itself, "the gates of hell" would be powerless.

The word "church" (Gk.-ekklesia) means the meeting of called out ones from the world. The 13 ruled! 13 rule the Politburo of Russia, 70 Cardinals rule the Catholic Church, 25 businessmen rule the Billy Graham Association, and it takes 10 Jewish men to establish a synagogue. However, three, Paul and Jan Crouch and their son, owns TBN.

Model Church - Antioch

The church at Antioch (Acts 13:10) is the model. Churches should attempt to conform to Antioch's type of government. If we were real in our experience with Christ, no one should have a problem with this! Jude 3 commands, "that ye should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints." The

big problem in Pentecostalism is that Christians have never contended for that faith in the realm of church government. They are perfectly content with the "hireling" or the "lord."

The Presbyterians came the closest, having obtained their church name from the Greek word for elders (Gk.-presbuteros).

One Man Rule is Sin!

Instead of "contending for the faith," preachers have succumbed to the IRS and its identity of what a church is (by the guidelines of the IRS, a "three-name non-profit religious incorporation"), rather than searching the scriptures.

Every preacher who makes the headlines because of corruption, from Jesse Jackson to Bebe Patten of Oakland, to Ronn Haus to Jim and Tammy Bakker, always makes it for the same reason—greed and pride. They are winners for a season, only to be overpowered by their own greed and lust for power over the people. I am of the persuasion it is absolutely wrong for one man to own the church. No man should own the church purchased by the blood of another. This is the reason our Lord sent them out two-bytwo. Dr. Carlton Pearson, Tulsa pastor, is now teaching an "everyone is saved" (including the devil) doctrine. "Some shall depart from the faith." (1 Tim. 4:1) Of course, he owns the church. "Blind leaders of the blind." (Matt. 15:14)

The Government of Antioch

"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers (not Sunday School teachers, but teachers to the entire body of Christ); as Barnabus (the Apostle), and Simeon (Prophet) that was called Niger, and Lucius (the Evangelist) of Cyrene, and Manaen (Pastor-Teacher), which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul." (Acts 13:1) You'll note they are listed in the order of their authority in the church. Please also note that Pastor is near the bottom, just above Saul who was the Bible School student. This was Paul's home church. All the other Apostles claimed the Jerusalem church as their mother church, where James the Less the half-brother of Jesus pastored.

Preachers are Gifts From God!

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers." Why? "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Eph. 4:11-12) Saul grew into the great Apostle Paul sitting in a church at Antioch where all these gifts were functioning. Read it, "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high...and gave GIFTS unto men." (Eph. 4:8)

Today's preachers and prophets are more like dispensers of knowledge than God-given gifts unto men. Do you know the difference? Knowledge "tickles the ears" and appeals to the brain, but the soul is left unsatisfied and thirsty. "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge" (1 Cor. 13:2) and yet fail to satisfy the "thirst" of the soul. It is a tinkling cymbal!

Entering Into The Kingdom of God!

What is the church? One is "born again" by their confession of faith in the Lord Jesus. "Except a man be born again, he cannot SEE the kingdom of God." (Jn. 3:3) His eyes are opened to see that a kingdom of God exists. He's just like a baby getting his eyes opened for the first time. Then Jesus adds one more step to your "seeing," and that is "to enter." "Except a man be born of water ("by the washing of regeneration" by the Word - Tit. 3:5) and of the Spirit, he cannot ENTER into the kingdom of God." (Jn. 3:5)

One must be submerged in the Word and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of heaven. It is not enough to have your eyes opened to know a kingdom of God exists; one must enter! By the baptism of the Holy Ghost you enter into the kingdom of God. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." (1 Cor. 12:13)

Once you were a sinner living in Egypt (type of the world) under the rule of Pharaoh (type of Satan). You were a slave to Pharaoh; he was your taskmaster. Suddenly a deliverer shows up! Moses (type of Christ the Deliverer), leads you out of Egypt and out from under the authority of Pharaoh. You are saved by following Moses through the Red Sea.

Saved by the Blood (Type of the Red Sea)

After Moses led the Israelites across the Red Sea (type of the blood), they experienced what the Bible describes as their "first love." (Rev. 2:4) One is never supposed to forget the time, the place, where they were "saved" from Pharaoh and his army. But, you must head for the Promised Land!

When one first finds Christ as their personal Savior, it is the happiest moment in their life. One begins to sing. "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea." (Ex. 15:1) Miriam, with her timbrel, danced on the banks of the Red Sea singing, "Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider (Pharaoh) hath he thrown into the sea." (Ex. 15:21) A tremendous joy breaks out in the heart of a believer right after one first experiences salvation, or being "born again."

Salvation is Conditional While in the Wilderness

One does not enter the Promised Land simply by crossing the Red Sea. The dancing, the rejoicing on the banks of the Red Sea would not be Miriam's testimony through 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. "For we are made partakers of Christ, IF we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end." (Heb. 3:14) The end being the entering the Promised Land, a type of the Holy Ghost baptism with fire. As long as you are in the wilderness, your salvation is conditional!

The children of Israel all died in the wilderness (1 Cor. 10:5) and went to hell due to their unbelief. Only Joshua and Caleb and the children survived the wilderness. Joyce Meyer is the only preacher to teach the wilderness. God bless her!

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God...Let us labour (40 years in the wilderness) therefore to enter into that rest (type of grace)." (Heb. 4:9,11) Jesus went into the wilderness. Have you been to yours? Jesus warned, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father SEALED." (Jn. 6:27) There is that word, SEALED.

"Sealed" To Receive Unconditional Eternal Life

You have the Father's acceptance to be betrothed to His Son once you have been SEALED. Once you receive this baptism of fire "whereby ye are SEALED unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30), you are given the assurance of eternal security. Israel in the wilderness is a warning to the church! "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted." (1 Cor. 10:6)

- #1 Neither be idolaters (Aaron's calf) (Ex. 32:6)
- #2 Neither commit fornication (Baal-Peor sex with the heathen) (Num. 25:1-3)
- #3 Neither tempt Christ (Korah) (Ex. 17:2,7)
- #4 Neither murmur. "If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land." (Num. 14:8)

"Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (1 Cor. 10:11) It took until "the ends of the world" for anyone to know what Apostle Paul was talking about, being blinded by our own traditions.

The Serpent

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." (Jn. 3:14) Just why would Moses lift up a serpent on a pole in the wilderness? The serpent was the very first to question "Hath God said?" "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the

LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen. 3:1) Rebellion in the wilderness brings on the serpents of unbelief.

God would never forget the serpent. Eve fell into sin when she began to believe the serpent. "The people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" (Nu. 21:5) They began to look back, which is when the Lord sent the fiery serpents among them. Once you have put your hand to the plough (to go to the Promised Land), and look back, you're not fit for the kingdom of God. (Lk. 9:62) Just remember the "seven other spirits" (Lk. 11:26) and the "last state of that man is worse than the first." In the wilderness is where men backslide. God is telling men that rebellion against moving forward brings the serpents of unbelief to bite us.

Woman of Samaria—A Type of the Bride of Christ?

Just as there is a first man Adam, and a last day Adam (1 Cor. 15:45), so it is with the church. Mother Eve is a type of the "first church." Eve had failed and broken the law of the garden of God. Hence, the "last church Eve" becomes a "quickening spirit" empowered with the Comforter to become the "bride of Christ" without spot or wrinkle.

Jesus went out of His way to minister to a Gentile (a Samaritan woman) drawing water from Jacob's well. The Jews regard Gentiles as dogs. As Gentiles we have no claim to righteousness.

A Jewish boy is not free to marry until his father has looked the bride over and she has met his approval. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter." (Jn. 14:16) Whenever you receive this precious Paraclete, you have received a witness you have been accepted by the Father. You are now betrothed to Jesus.

Betrothal to Christ—What is it?

This is similar to the Gentile engagement, only much more binding. Only adultery can break a betrothal agreement. The speaking in tongues is the engagement ring to be shown off as a sign to unbelievers that the betrothal has transpired. (Matt. 25:1-13) Now you have become a "quickening spirit," (1 Cor. 15:45) thus showing the world your ring.

Tongues is a sign to the unbeliever. (1 Cor. 14:22) "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth (must be scriptural), and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." (1 Jn. 2:27) The anointing that Apostle John is talking about is the promised Comforter that Jesus promised to send. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name,

he shall teach you all things (out of the Bible), and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (Jn. 14:26) Too long we have allowed Baptists to teach us the Bible.

Is The NIV A Baptist Bible?

Baptists don't like the King James Version of the Bible, hence, the Baptists make a Bible they prefer, the New International Version. This is termed enlightenment! The Jehovah's Witnesses doing the same thing is called cultish.

I believe Baptists could comprehend what we are talking about if the "full gospel" folks would call the Holy Ghost the Comforter. If you refer to the Holy Ghost and call Him Holy Spirit, a Baptist's immediate response is "Oh, I have that! I got it at conversion!" "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you ANOTHER Comforter, that he may abide with you forever (or eternal security; "sealed unto the day of redemption" [Eph. 4:30]); even the Spirit of truth...but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ("He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Matt. 3:11) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (Jn. 14:16-18) The Comforter now takes over the responsibility to deliver the package (you) into glory. Amen!

Religion Always Resists the Holy Ghost

Why does religion always "resists the Holy Ghost"? Stephen, the church's first martyr, cried out to the religionists of his day, "Ye stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost (or Comforter): as your fathers did, so do ye." (Acts 7:51)

The religious traditions of Phariseeism were their excuse for resisting. What is yours? The Apostle Paul "came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples." (Much like our Baptists of today, many of them good disciples.) Paul still asked them the question, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost (with fire) since ye believed?" (Acts 19:1-2) The Baptists of today will argue that they received it all the day they first believed.

The Baptists emptied heaven of all future blessings on the day of their conversion. Pardon my lingo, but "what a crock!" How can anyone believe such garbage? Yet, I have just described Fundamentalism to you. "Many are called (to obtain the promise), but few are chosen." (Matt. 22:14) However, these Ephesian disciples were more honest and said, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." (Acts 19:2)

This generation is without an excuse as to whether there be a Holy Ghost (with fire). TBN and Daystar televise into every home that there be a Holy Ghost. Do you listen? Apostle Peter, in giving the

altar call to his message preached on the day of Pentecost, said to the people in response to the question, "What must we do to be saved?" (Acts 2:37):

- #1 Repent (be born again)
- #2 Be baptized in water
- #3 Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

After Peter's famous sermon on the day of Pentecost explaining what had just transpired in the city of Jerusalem, he said, "For these are not drunken, as ye suppose...But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." (Acts 2:15-16) Pentecost was a fulfillment of Bible prophecy! "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple (until kicked out), and breaking bread from house to house." (Acts 2:46) The temple doesn't want to hear. One cannot put new wine (revival of truth) into an old wine skin (religious tradition). (Matt. 9:16-17)

I've been in this Pentecostal religion for over 60 years. The greatest authorities on scripture are those "90 Day Ensigns" the Navy was so famous for. They acquired "book knowledge" through their young minds, but had never been aboard a ship. Yet, they were barking orders to men that had sailed the seven seas! The Bible is like a giant jigsaw puzzle. I have worked on this puzzle for over 60 years!

"Pulpiteering" Satisfies "Itching Ears"

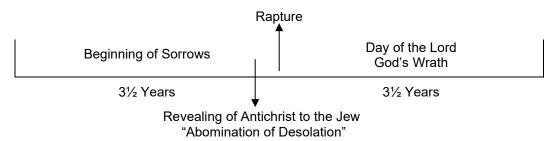
The truth is stronger than pulpiteering! Pulpiteering is to please the "itching ears" of the hearers (2 Tim. 4:3), "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9) In the church, you had better pour all you know into a new convert right away, because 90 days later he will be teaching you how he has acquired godhood status by reading the works of E.W. Kenyon! He'll tell you you have no right to judge until you have first read all 27 volumes.

Day of the Lord

The last prophecy in the Old Testament, Malachi 4:5, is about Elijah, "one of two witnesses" appearing on earth prior to "the great and dreadful day of the LORD." Elijah (not TBN) will prepare the bride to make herself ready to meet the bridegroom in the sky. "For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles (Christians) be gathered together." (Matt. 24:28)

The "blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come." (Acts 2:19-20) Do you even know what is being referred to by the "great and notable day of the Lord"? The Day of the Lord in scripture refers to the last $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of Daniel's 70th week. This Day of the Lord is the "Great Tribulation" from which the church escapes by rapture.

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK (DAN. 9:29)



Apostle Peter assures us that up until the time the "moon turns to blood" (Acts 2:20), man can be saved. "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Acts 2:21)

"Ye think Ye have Eternal Life?" (Jn. 5:39)

Preachers are a lot like the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees of Christ's day. Did you know the shepherds on the hillside of Judea tending their flocks of sheep knew more about the coming of the Lord than those studying the scriptures in the temple? Most of what they preach is in C.I. Scofield's footnotes. "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9) For this reason, every believer is commanded by Jesus (in red letters) to "Search the scriptures; for in them YE THINK ye have eternal life (while yet in the wilderness): (Why?) and they are they (C.I. Scofield) which testify of me. And ye will not come to me (the Word), that ye might have life." (Jn. 5:39-40) "Let God be true, but every man a liar." (Rom. 3:4) Go to the Rock!

Cpt. Nelson Predicts a "Falling Away" Among "Resisters of the Holy Ghost" (2 Thess. 2:3)

"Ye think ye have eternal life" due to your traditional preacher assuring you that you have eternal life without being "sealed unto the day of redemption." (Eph. 4:30) In light of my understanding, I'm going to make a prophecy. America is about to witness among Southern Baptists, Presbyterians, Nazarenes, Methodists, Lutherans, and all others that "resist the Holy Ghost," the falling away predicted by St. Paul as one of the signs of Christ's eminent return. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (the rapture) shall not come, except there come a falling away (from the truth) first, and that man of sin be revealed." (2 Thess. 2:3)

"Two events," said Apostle Paul, must precede the coming of our Lord.

- #1 The falling away or backsliding. (Baptists are eternally secure.)
- #2 The revealing of Antichrist (to Gentile believers). The abomination of desolation (Matt. 24:15) reveals who the Antichrist is to the Jew.

Masonry & Baalism

You would be amazed at how many Southern Baptists and Presbyterian preachers are Masons. When you reach the 33rd degree level of Masonry, you no longer have to worry about 666—you already are marked by Baalism, with the worship of Jah-Bul-On, or J.B.O., the Masonic god.

Just what is ahead on the calendar for Christians? You will have to abandon some of your traditions. The Antichrist is here, and Jesus has not come! You have to face reality. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 is the truth. "Let God be true, but every man a liar." (Rom. 3:4) The "pre-tribbers" are now on open display.

The Promise Is Unto You "In the last days."

The last days didn't begin until the day of Pentecost according to Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28). Jesus continues, as he stood up at the feast and cried saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit [the Holy Ghost with fire], which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.)" (Jn. 7:37-39)

This "rivers of living water" flowing out of the belly was to be experienced AFTER the resurrection and ascension of Christ into heaven. I will give you Baptists credit for one thing, for having named what you received when you were born again as the Holy Spirit; but He became the Holy Ghost or the Comforter on the birthday of the church. (Acts 2:4)

Save Yourself!

Peter continuing in his altar call to those "pricked in their heart" by the sermon and screaming out, "What shall we do (to be saved)?" (Acts 2:37) Receive the Holy Ghost; He is the one "whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Eph. 4:30) "For THE PROMISE is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation." (Acts 2:39-40) Saving yourself becomes an obstacle to receiving THE PROMISE, simply because you have to do something.

Under the easy believism of the Baptists, God does everything, or otherwise it is legalism. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Phil. 2:12) You are still under "tutors and governors." Honey, you are under the legalism of the law "until the time appointed of the Father." (Gal. 4:2) The Apostle Paul declared, "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God." (Rom. 15:8) Jesus "came unto his own, and his own received him not." (Jn. 1:11)

The time appointed by the Father is when He decides to pour out the Holy Ghost baptism of fire upon you. But first, God wants you to obey "the schoolmaster" (the law) that is telling you, "Let every

thing that hath breath praise the LORD." (Ps. 150:6) You save yourself by being obedient to the schoolmarm! (Gal. 3:24) "I cried unto God with my voice." (Ps. 77:1) "Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer." (Ps. 64:1) "Lift up your heads, O ye gates." (Ps. 24:7) "I will lift up my hands in thy name." (Ps. 63:4) "Make a joyful noise unto God." (Ps. 66:1) You save yourself by being obedient to the schoolmaster who will lead you to Christ, "for he dwelleth with you (under the law), and shall be in you (grace)." (Jn. 14:17)

The flesh rebels against being a true worshipper of Christ. All this, in obedience to David and his Psalms, the man after God's own heart who comprehended "true worship."

Two Ways!

Jesus said there are two ways to choose! "Enter ye in at the strait (narrow) gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW there be that find it." (Matt. 7:13-14) In order to receive this Holy Ghost baptism, you must first fulfill the law. You have already been accepted by the Son, but must meet the Father's acceptance! "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1)

This is not the easy believism of Jerry Falwell, but becoming a lamb sacrifice before God, believing God to send the fire on a vessel emptied of self, lying on the altar. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom. 12:1-2)

Do you know the difference between a Romans 7 experience and a Romans 8 experience? Paul received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in Romans 8 and was made "free from the law of sin and death." (Rom. 8:2) You are now no longer under law, but have entered into grace: you are sealed unto the day of redemption. God accepts the full responsibility of your delivery into heaven. "Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." (Gal. 2:20) I have such a burden for our dear Southern Baptists friends that have been so deceived. All roads do not lead us home. Few there be that find the narrow way!

A Strange Paradox

A strange paradox exists within the church. The ones that "think" they have unconditional eternal security, don't have it. The Pentecostals have it, but don't believe it. In my first 20 years as a Christian spent in Pentecostalism, I never heard the word grace ever come from the pulpit.

But when you "put your hand to the plough" to receive the Holy Ghost and look back, you are not fit for the kingdom of God. (Lk. 9:62) This is where most backslide, due to their refusal to "tarry...until ye be endued with power from on high," (Lk. 24:49) and "presenting their body as a living sacrifice." (Rom. 12:1) The fire will fall through your faith. Do it!

Rest Means Grace. Rest From Your Own Works.

Now, I'll give you a scripture I have never heard quoted by any preacher in 60 years in the church. "For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day." (Heb. 4:8) Jesus said, "Come unto me...and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) That rest is indicative of ceasing from your own works; exactly what grace is.

This rest never arrived until Jesus ascended on high. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." (Jn. 14:16) He is called the Comforter because now you have been baptized into the body. That knowledge is so comforting to the soul! I can rest, and allow Him to work through me! Isaiah sets the record straight. "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest (grace) wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear." (Isa. 28:11-12)

Today's Rock of Offence—The Holy Ghost

They will not hear because the Holy Ghost is the "rock of offence" in this 21st century church. In the early church Jesus was the "rock of offence." "The stone (or truth) which the builders (the preachers) disallowed (rejected), the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word." (1 Pet. 2:7-8) Jesus Christ went without the camp for us! "Let us go therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach." (Heb. 13:13) "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed!" (Lk. 9:26) We have used a lot of words that the so-called "Word Folk" have never considered as being "The Word," such as "God hath set in the church...governments." (1 Cor. 12:28)

What kind of government has God set in the church? Dictatorship? (1 Pet. 5:3) Or the hireling? (Jn. 10:12) Neither one is the answer. "Let the elders that rule." (1 Tim. 5:17)

May God Bless, The Cpt.