

CAN ONE BE WRONG AND BE RIGHT?

In Acts 2, this was the **beginning** of New Testament Christianity, Peter calls this the beginning in Acts 11:15, *"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, even as on us at the beginning."* When the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles, in Acts 2:1-4, this is called **"the beginning."** I understand this to be the beginning of the New Covenant, Heb. 9:15-17. It should be remembered that TRUTH was taught at this time, Acts 2:14, and **TRUTH OBEYED**, Acts 2:41, caused some 3,000 to be *"Added to the church!"* Acts 2:47 (KJV). These folks were taught right and when they obeyed what they had been taught, they were added to the Lord's Church by the Lord himself, Acts 2:47.

Can a person be a member of the Lord's Church if he does not know the Lord's church exist? In our society there are many religious organizations that claim to be part of the Lord's Church; but, are not. Is it possible for one to be a member of the Lord's church and not know about the establishment of the Lord's church in 33 A.D.? We are told by many of the religious organizations of the day: *"We are a part of the Lord and the Lord accepts us as being alright!"* But, my friends, how does one go about proving such when denominationalism was **not in existence** in the first century?

There were religious groups in existence during the days of the Lord's abode on the earth; yet, **he did not accept them.** Look at two groups of religious people in the first century which the Lord did not accept. *"7 And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. 8. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit; but the Pharisees confess both,"* Acts 23:7-8. According to the thinking of the world, today, these two religious groups would be accepted by the Lord; **but not so.**

In Matt. 16:1-12 the Pharisees and the Sadducees came to the Lord trying him. We would say they came for the purpose of testing; or, proving him. To these two groups of people, he stated they were, *"4 An evil and adulterous generation,"* Matt. 16:4. Yes, these people were religious; but, **they were not religiously correct.** In Matt. 16:6 we find this statement: *"6 And Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."* As if this was not plain enough, he further stated: *"12 Then understood they that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees,"* Matt. 16:12. The religious movements of the day were opposed by the Lord. It is said of these doctrine, *"9 But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men,"* Matt. 16:9.

The **Gospel** is declared to be the power of God unto salvation, *"16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek,"* Rom. 1:16. Just because there are those who claim to be religious and claim to be acceptable in the eyes of the Lord – **that does not make it so.** Remember the words of John in I Jno. 4:1, *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world."* **Amen!**

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