

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE APOSTOLIC, PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

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BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Church is a Greek word meaning, "The Lord's House."

The church was established in the book of Acts of the Apostles. No other place in the Bible will you find the complete plan of salvation. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, (also called the gospel, meaning good news), were written about the life and miracles of Jesus. They tell of the deity of Jesus.

Romans through Jude are, for the most part, letters written to churches that were already established in the book of Acts. These letters were for instructions to help with specific problems and encouragement to those churches. They were maintenance manuals written to those churches. No book in the New Testament has the complete plan of Salvation except the book of Acts. The other books from Romans through Jude are like owners manuals. Your automobile owners manual when you look up how to change a flat will tell you only how to change the flat. They do not tell you how the automobile was made. The manufacturer assumes that you have the automobile, otherwise you would not need to know how to change a flat.

The original church was persecuted during the early years of the church. Saul of Tarsus was one of the most aggressive of these men persecuting the early Christians. The Jewish Priest and leaders of the establishment, had been the ones that had caused the death of Jesus. He had royally messed up their play house. He had called them vipers, hypocrites and called on them to repent. Told them that the Kingdom of God was at hand. After the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus these religious leaders had a much greater problem. After the day of Pentecost those followers of Jesus went everywhere preaching the Gospel. They were called Christians first at Antioch, (Acts 11:26). The more they were persecuted the more the Gospel was spread.

Saul was on his way to Damascus with orders from the High Priest to kill the Christians. Saul was knocked down and blinded by a great light on the road to Damascus. Saul asked the question, (9th chapter of Acts), "Who art thou Lord? The Lord answered saying, "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest."

After the conversion of Saul, Jesus changed his name to Paul. The apostle Paul wrote more books of the Bible than any other person.

The beginning of the Christian Church is dated from the great day on which the Holy Ghost came down, according as our Lord had promised to His Apostles. At that time, "Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven," were gathered together at Jerusalem, to keep the Feast of Pentecost (or Feast of Weeks). Pentecost means 50. This second of the three Great Feasts commanded to be kept was 50 days after the first Great Feast. The first Great Feast was to celebrate the Passover. The Passover was the night when the death angel passed over Egypt and killed all of the first born who did not have the blood applied to the door post of their house. Jesus was slain during the celebration of the Passover. He is the blood for the atonement for sin. The second Great Feast celebrated the Giving of The Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Law was given to Moses amidst a noise, as the sound of a great trumpet, there was fire, lightning and thunder. The mountain melted and ran down. God was getting their attention!

The giving of the law on Mount Sinai was called the First Covenant. This event was one of the three holy seasons at which God required His people to appear before Him in the place which He had chosen (Deuteronomy 16:16).

The Second Covenant was ushered in with similar sounds and wonders. It happened in this manner. Acts 1st and 2nd chapter. Acts 2:1“And when the Day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all in one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat on each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God has made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. (37) Now when they had heard this they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Peter, whom Jesus had given the keys to the Kingdom. Peter answered, (Acts 2:38) “Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:39, For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to those that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. (41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about 3,000 souls.

This was the new covenant, which Jesus told them about stating that Repentance and Baptism shall be preached in My Name beginning at Jerusalem, Luke 24:47.

Many of these devout men there converted by what they then saw and heard, to believe the Gospel; and, when they returned to their own countries, they carried back with them the news of the wonderful things which had taken place at Jerusalem. After this, the Apostles went forth "into all the world," as their Master had ordered them, to "preach the Gospel to every creature" (St Mark 16:15-18). The Book of Acts tells us something of what they did, and we may learn something more about it from the Epistles. And, although this is but a small part of the whole, it will give us some insight of the rest, if we consider that, while St. Paul was preaching in Asia Minor, Greece, and at Rome, the other Apostles were busily doing the same work in other countries.

The last chapter of the Acts leaves St. Paul at Rome, waiting for his trial on account of the things which the Jews had laid to his charge. We find from the Epistles that he afterwards got his liberty, and returned into the East. There is reason to suppose that he also visited Spain, as he had spoken of doing in his Epistle to the Romans 15:28). He was imprisoned again at Rome, where Emperor Nero persecuted the Christians very cruelly; and it is believed that both Peter and Paul were put to death there in 68ad. The bishops of Rome set up claims to great power and honor, because they said that St. Peter was the first bishop of their church, and that they were his successors. But although we may reasonably believe that the Apostle was martyred at Rome, there is not any evidence for thinking that he had been Bishop of Rome.

All the Apostles, except John, are supposed to have been martyred (or put to death for the sake of the Gospel). James the Less, who was bishop of Jerusalem, was killed by the Jews, about 62a.d. Christians were tortured, burned at the stake, cut asunder and for sport were cast to Lions and other wild animals at sporting events

Rome was the military conquering power of that time. They sent troops, and, after a bloody war, destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in about 70a.d.

Thirty years after Herod's time another cruel emperor, Domitian, raised a fresh

persecution against the Christians (AD 95). It was during Domitian's persecution that St. John was banished to the island of Patmos, where he saw the visions which are described in his "Revelation." The Revelation of Jesus Christ.

John was much troubled by false teachers, who had begun to corrupt the Gospel. These persons are called "heretics", and their doctrines are called "heresy" from a Greek word which means "to choose", because they chose to follow their own fancies, instead of receiving the Gospel as the Apostles and the Church taught it. Simon the sorcerer, who is mentioned in the eighth chapter of the Acts, is counted as the first heretic, and even in the time of the Apostles a number of others arose, such as Hymenaeus, Philetus, and Alexander, who are mentioned by Paul (1 Tim. 1:19; 2 Tim. 2:17). These earliest heretics were mostly of the kind called Gnostics, a word which means that they pretended to be more knowing than ordinary Christians. Paul may have meant them especially when he warned Timothy against "science" (or knowledge) "falsely so called" (1 Tim. 6:20). Their doctrines were a strange mixture of Jewish and heathen notions with Christianity; and it is curious that some of the very strangest of their opinions have been brought up again from time to time by people who fancied that they had found out something new, while they had only fallen into old errors, which had been condemned by the Church hundreds of years before.

About 116, Ignatius, who was the bishop of Antioch was taken from Antioch, (one of the larger cities of Syria), to Rome. At Rome he was thrown to wild beasts at the Coliseum.

Although Emperor Trajan was no friend to the Gospel, and put Ignatius to death, he made a law which must have been a great relief to the Christians. Until then they were liable to be sought out, and any one might inform against them; but Trajan ordered that they should not be sought out, although, if they were discovered, and refused to give up their faith, they were to be punished.

Emperor Hadrian (AD 117-138) did something to make their condition better; but it was still one of great hardship and danger. The governor of a country had the power to persecute them cruelly, even to death. Many people still believed the horror stories of Christians killing children and eating human flesh. If there was a famine or a plague, if the river Tiber, which runs through Rome, rose above its usual height and damaged the neighboring buildings, or if the Emperor's armies were defeated in war, the blame of everything bad was laid on the Christians. It was said that all these things were judgments from the gods, who were angry because the Christians were allowed to live.

At the public games, such as those at which Ignatius was put to death, the people used to cry out, "Throw the Christians to the lions! Away with the godless wretches!" For, as the Christians had no images like those of the heathen gods, and did not offer any sacrifices of beasts, as the heathens did, it was thought that they had no God at all. The heathens could not think of God, as a spirit, and who is not to be worshipped as a graven image.

In 150 ad the Romans wrote an article called the Apostles Creed. This article was written long after the last disciple had died. The article speaks of the Holy Catholic Church and allegiance to it. The Creed was adopted from the Old Roman Creed and from baptismal rites. (See World Book Encyclopedia).

Apostles Creed. *"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy*

*Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the **Holy Catholic Church**, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.*

The Christian faith was getting further from the original doctrine of the Apostles as recorded in Acts.

Emperor Antoninus Pius (AD 138 to 161), ordered that governors and magistrates should not give way to such outcries, and that the Christians should no longer be punished for their religion only.

In 161, Pius was succeeded by Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, because of bad advice, again started persecuting the Christians. Justis, a Greek, was put to death because he would not make sacrifice to pagan gods in 166.

Also in 166, Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, was burned at the stake. He was almost 90. He was said to have known John, and is supposed to have been made bishop of Smyrna, (now Izmir, Turkey, by John personally. He had been a friend of Ignatius, who suffered martyrdom fifty years before. Polycarp, when the proconsul directed him to curse Christ, was said to have replied, (source World Book Encyclopedia), "For 86 years I have been serving Him, and He has done no wrong to me. How then dare I blaspheme my King who has saved me?"

It is said that as the flames swept around Polycarp, he remained unharmed. Then a soldier thrust him through with a sword. The blood gushed out with such force that it put out their fire. The soldiers rekindled the fire and burned his corpse. This part of the story of Polycarp, although I believe it happened, I could not confirm from history.

This martyrdom continued until AD 312. In the year 312, Constantine, who was governor of Gaul, (now France), Spain and the British Isles marched against Maxentius, who had usurped the government of Italy and Africa. Constantine seems to have been brought up by his father to believe in one God, although he did not at all know who this God was, nor how He had revealed Himself in Holy Scripture. But as he was on his way to fight Maxentius, he said he saw in the sky a wonderful appearance, which seemed like the figure of a cross, with words around it, "By this conquer!" He had the cross put on the standards (flags or colors) of his army; and when he had defeated Maxentius, he set up a statue of himself in Rome, with a cross in its right hand, and with an inscription which declared that he owed his victory to that saving sign. At about the same time that Constantine overcame Maxentius, Licinius defeated Maximin in the East. (This began the Byzantine history. Constantine I, The Great rebuilt Byzantine, renamed it Constantinople, and made it his capital. Constantinople is now Istanbul, Turkey. The two conquerors now had possession of the whole empire, and they joined in publishing laws by which Christians were allowed to worship God freely according to their conscience (AD 313). (Source World Book Encyclopedia).

Then the Roman government changed their tactics. They embraced Christianity and their Emperor Constantine became a supporter of the church. The new alliance was to become the Holy Roman Empire.

In 325 AD Emperor Constantine called a council of the various leaders of the Churches. The following is From the World Book Encyclopedia. This theory was

discussed in approximately 325 A.D. at the Nicene Council held in Nicaea in Asia Minor. This council was held by the Emperor Constantine to settle the dispute caused by the Arian views of the Trinity. Arius was a priest of Alexandria, who believed that Christ is not the same essence as God but of similar substance. The Council adopted the so called Nicene Creed. This declared that God and Christ are of one substance. It was adopted in the following form, but has been amplified since:

Adopted in 325 at the Nicene Council is the following: (World Book Encyclopedia)

"We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of all things, both visible and invisible, and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Only begotten of the Father, that is to say, of the substance of the Father, God of God and Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, both things in heaven and things on earth; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down and was made flesh, was made man, suffered, and rose again on the third day, went up into the heavens, and is to come again to judge both the quick and the dead; and in the Holy Ghost."

With the expanse of the Roman Empire Greek religion and mythology became an influence upon the Church. Christianity became a state religion in 392 under Emperor Theodosius.

During the fourth century there was a growth of superstitions and corruptions in the Church. Great numbers of converts came into it, bringing their old heathen notions with them, and not well knowing what they might expect, but with an eager desire to find as much to interest them in the worship and life of Christians as they had found in the ceremonies and shows of their former religion. And in order that such converts might not be altogether disappointed, the Christian teachers of the age allowed a number of things which soon began to have very bad effects. Augustine complained that in his time (which was about the year 400) ceremonies "were grown to such a number that the estate of Christian people was in worse case concerning that matter than were the Jews." One of the corruptions an excess reverence for saints. This led to the practices of making addresses to them, and of paying superstitious honors to their dead bodies. Another corruption was the improper use of paintings or images. Augustine said, "many of the ignorant are worshippers of pictures."

The ruler of the state run Roman Catholic Church was called a Pope. Pope Gregory I, (590-604), adopted a rule to require all priest to remain celibate, (unmarried). Through the years this has led to many scandals. This celibate policy was not a part of the early church. Peter was married. On one occasion Peter's mother-in-law was healed by Jesus as recorded in Mt. 8:14-15, Mk. 1:29-31 and Luke 4:38-39. Mark, who wrote the book of Mark, is thought to be Peter's son.

The second Nicene Council was called by the Empress Irene in 787. Up until this time the use of images or statues was not allowed in worship of God. The Empress Irene revoked this order. This is when the statutes were allowed of Jesus and Mary. These statues later become an object of worship. In 1950 Pope Pius XII carried this doctrine further by proclaiming the doctrine of the Assumption of Mary to heaven. Now Roman Catholics were to believe that, by her intercession, Mary can obtain many spiritual blessings from her Son. They believe that none are as close to God as the Virgin Mary.

The Roman government launched seven Crusades to teach the world Christianity

at the point of a sword or spear. Their mission was to reclaim the Holy Lands, (Jerusalem, Antioch, Tyre), from the Moslems. Their first Crusade started in 1096. The seventh Crusade ended in 1291. Weak attempts were made in the 1300s and 1400s. No where have I found where the Gospel is to be spread by any means except preaching. Nations began to hate the new religion that the Crusaders were teaching. The molesting of their women and pillaging of their cities were being done in the name of teaching the Gospel to the heathen.

Moravian Church was organized in 1457 by followers of the martyr John Huss (Jan Hus) some 42 years after his death. Huss was a Roman Catholic priest and professor at the University of Prague. For his beliefs and teachings he was burned at the stake as an heretic at the Council of Constance in 1415.

REFORMATION was a religious movement of the 1500s that gave birth to Protestantism. It had a tremendous impact on man's social, political and economic life.

Martin Luther continued what Huss had begun about 100 years before. They were trying to repair a broken system that had lost all spiritual and Godly teaching. It had become a money making political system after being taken over by the various governments. The secular rulers were growing in power. In 1309, a French pope, Clement V moved the papacy from Rome to Avignon France. Pope Gregory moved the papacy back to Rome about 70 years later.

The popes and higher clergy lived like secular princes. They built lavish palaces and indulged in corrupt financial practices. The religious life of the church suffered. The sacraments were often celebrated meaninglessly and the church's spiritual message of God's mercy was weakened by emphasis on man's good works, especially the giving of money to the various church charities.

Serious abuses also had appeared in the church. The large administrative structure of the church required a great deal of money to finance it. To obtain this money, the church used many devices that hurt its spiritual nature. These devices included selling important positions in the church. The sale of indulgences caused Martin Luther to attack the church by posting 96 theses on doors of the Catholic churches in 1517. The pope would advertise the sale by posting the authorization by hanging the notice on a cross!! These indulgences were for forgiveness of sin. The rich could buy forgiveness, called indulgences; however, the poor began to resent the church because they did not have money to buy their forgiveness from the pope. (Source World Book Encyclopedia, Reformation).

God begins to shine a light through the fog. With the printing press being invented, a great revival of learning began. The Renaissance helped the common people get an education. They began to study the Holy Scriptures and saw how far the state run church had drifted from the principles that the Apostles had laid as it's foundation, with Christ being the Chief Corner Stone. Martin Luther led this Reformation. Luther saw that men could be saved only through faith in Jesus Christ. His view of religion placed man directly before God, trusting Him and relying on His forgiving grace. Luther begin teaching that God justifies men by faith and not by works of pertinence or by having to buy your forgiveness from some man.

The Emperor Charles V and Pope Leo X ordered Luther excommunicated and declared him a heretic. They ordered his trial before the diet in Worms, Germany. Luther was ordered to recant. Luther replied, "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the

Scriptures or by clear reason, for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves, I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise.”

In May, 1521 the emperor signed the Edict of Worms, which declared Luther to be an outlaw whom anyone could kill without punishment. Luther led the Protestant movement until his death in 1546. Without Luther’s leadership, the light was short lived. In 1555 the Holy Roman Empire officially recognized the Lutheran Churches.

In 1520 King Gustavus I of Sweden took over much church property and introduced Lutheranism in Sweden and Finland. In 1536 King Christian of Denmark made Lutheranism the state religion.

In France a series of religious wars from 1562-1598. The pro Catholic party murdered thousands of Huguenots, (a protestant group).

England broke from the Catholic Church in 1534 because Pope Clement VII would not annul Henry VIII’s marriage to his first wife. The British parliament passed the Act of Supremacy which made the Monarch the head of the church. As the new head of the church Henry VIII, was soon free to divorce his first wife Catherine and marry Anne Boleyn.

Queen Mary I, known as “Bloody Mary” restored much of the Catholic teachings; however, protestant teaching by John Calvin gained some converts. These Puritans opposed Anglicanism because it was episcopal, (meaning governed by bishops).

In 1560 John Knox introduced Calvin’s teaching and presbyterian system in Scotland and the Scots soon adopted Protestantism as the state religion. Irish remained loyal Catholics. This loyalty still causes a serious conflict today between Catholics and the Protestants which colonized Northern Ireland.

With the discovery of America a new conflict began. Common people longing for freedom of religion started settling North America. The Roman Catholic Church seeing new opportunity started sending their armies into Mexico, Central and South America to teach those heathens religion, again at the point of a spear or sword.

The settlers in North America formed colonies and in 1776 declared their independence from England. Their new government adopted a form of government based on freedom of religion. Their new constitution guarantees that they will not impose any religion on the people, but will allow each individual to worship God as they feel is right.

People came from all parts of the world to settle this new world. They brought with them a great variety of beliefs. All of their various beliefs were tolerated in this new world. Churches sprang up in every village. The United States of America was based on the principle of “In God We Trust.” Everyone was finally free from state run churches and able to worship God as they believed to the dictates of their own heart.

Samuel Wesley, 1662-1735, was at first a dissenter from the Church of England; however, in his later life he converted back to the Church of England.

John Wesley, 1703-1791, son of Samuel, was a leader of the Holy Club, a club formed by his Brother Charles Wesley. This club attempted to lead a Christian life through method, (discipline).

John went as a chaplain to the Georgia colonies, 1735-1738, in hope to convert the Indians, (not as much to save their souls), but as penance to save his own soul. (World

Book Encyclopedia).

On board ship Wesley was impressed by the calm courage of Moravian missionaries aboard his ship during a great storm. After long searching, Wesley was given “saving faith” on May 24, 1738, during a Moravian meeting in London. His “heart was strangely warmed” as he listened to reading of Martin Luther’s preface to the Epistle to Romans. He started preaching salvation by faith, a theme he emphasized for the next 50 years. Wesley remained loyal to the Church of England; however, realizing there were many differences with what he believed, he started a movement which would become the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, who wrote many of the songs that are still used today, traveled with his brother John to the Georgia Colonies. On May 21, 1738 he was “born again” after reading a commentary by Martin Luther on the Epistle to the Galatians. For 17 years he was a traveling minister among the Wesleyan societies. Although he differed with his brother on some points, they always remained loyal to each other.

The Wesleyan Church members are not allowed to use tobacco and alcoholic beverages or belong to secret societies. Since its organization, the Wesleyan Church as merged with the Alliance of the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada and other missionary bands around the world. (Source World Book Encyclopedia).

January 1, 1901 in Topeka, Kansas the Pentecostal experience moved into the 20th century. The students at Charles Parham's Bible School had been studying the book of Acts of the Apostles when suddenly a lady began speaking in unknown tongues, just like the Disciples and those gathered in the Upper Room did on the Day of Pentecost almost two thousand years before.

Dr. Parham had instructed his students to carefully study Acts 2, believing that speaking in tongues was the evidence of the Spirit baptism that Jesus had mentioned in John 3:5. Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

They soon discovered that the Roman Catholic Church had not only changed the method of Baptism, (by complete emersion in water), but had also changed the way people were baptized. This change was to allow for sprinkling, or pouring on of water on the head. This was contrary to what the early Christians practiced *immersion*, (submersing a person in water).

The Roman Catholic Church also changed the formula for baptism. The early church baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ as commanded by Peter in Acts 2:38, knowing that they were obeying the commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the NAME, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (source World Book Encyclopedia and Acts of the Apostles).

The Apostle Paul in the 19th chapter of Acts met some disciples of John the Baptist. He ask them the question, 19:2-6, (2) “have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” And they said unto him, “we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” (3) And he said unto them, “Unto what then were ye baptized?” And they said, “Unto John’s baptism.” (4) Then said Paul, “John verily baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” (5) And when they heard this, they were baptized in

the Name of the Lord Jesus. (6) And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Acts 10:44-48, And while Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on them which heard the word. (45) And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. (46) For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, (47) Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? (48) And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. Acts 11:16, Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, **“John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.”** (17) Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I that I could withstand God?

Their discovery of the Pentecostal experience shortly led to converts all over the United States. Pentecostalism received its greatest modern time revival in Los Angeles, California. The revival called the Azusa Street revival ran from 1906-1913. This revival attracted honest hearted Christians seeking the full truth from all over the world.

Though Pentecostal adherents met with much opposition, the phenomenon continued to spread as newly-filled saints and preachers returned to their communities and began to hold meetings.

Many early Pentecostals were opposed to ideas of organization. The movement, in the beginning, had no denominational aspirations but intended to work from inside the various existing denominations. However, it became increasingly clear as opposition to Pentecostalism mounted that it would be necessary to form some organization. To this end, the Assemblies of God began to organize. The Assemblies of God was chartered in 1913.

The Oneness Pentecost movement split from the Assemblies of God in 1914 when many of their ministers, (still focusing on the Book of Acts), noticed that everyone, that was baptized into the early church, were baptized exclusively in the Name of Jesus Christ instead of the titles, (the triune formula adopted at one of the various councils called by an Emperor or Empress of Rome), of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

This spawned a new focus on the name of Jesus. John Scheppe, who attended the service, spent the night in prayer and Scripture reading and ran through the camp the following morning shouting that he had received a revelation of the power of Jesus name. Frank Ewart, a former Baptist minister who had received the Pentecostal experience in 1908, also gave special heed to the Oneness message. Ewart began a careful and systematic search of the Scriptures, concluding that not only should baptism be administered in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ but that Jesus was indeed the highest revealed name of God. He denounced the Trinity and embraced the pure monotheism of Oneness doctrine as described in the New Testament.

Present statistics estimate that there are over 18 million Oneness Pentecostals worldwide. The Oneness Movement, perhaps more than any other branch of Pentecostalism, has dedicated itself to Apostolic doctrine. Oneness Pentecostals have a great Pentecostal heritage, a history marked by the pioneering spirit of Oneness believers dedicated to the truth and the power of a New Testament theology that truly distinguishes this segment of the Pentecostal Movement.

The basic and fundamental doctrine of The Apostolic Church is the Bible standard of full salvation, which is repentance, baptism in water by immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the initial sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

The Bible is the inspired Word Of God. It gives a true history of the creation of the heavens, the earth, and of mankind. It contains the correct prophecy of the ages to come regarding the heavens and the earth, and the destiny of man. Furthermore, there is no salvation outside of that which is contained within its pages.

There is only One God: the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and of all mankind. This One God, the I AM, is manifested (revealed) to mankind as the Father (in creation), Son (as Savior or in redemption)(1 Jn.5:20), and Holy Ghost, (indwelling Spirit) (Rom. 8:11). God is a Spirit (John 4:24), the Eternal One, the Creator of all things, and of all men. Thus making Him their Father (through creation) (Malachi 2:10). The LORD is the FIRST and the LAST, and beside Him there is no God (Isa. 44:6).

There was no God formed before him, neither shall there be after Him (Isa. 43:10). Jesus is the Son of God according to the flesh (Rom. 1:3). Jesus is the very God Himself according to the Spirit (Matt. 1:18-23). Jesus is the Christ (Matt. 16:16). Jesus is the Creator of all things (Col. 1:16, 17; Jn.1:10; Isa.40:28). Jesus is God with us (Matt. 1:23). Jesus is God made flesh (John 1:1-14). Jesus is God manifested in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16). Jesus is He which was, which is, and which is to come, The Almighty. (Rev. 1:8; Isa. 9:6). To this, Jesus Himself testified when He said: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:7-11).

Since it took shedding of blood for the remission (forgiveness) of the sins of the world (Heb. 9:22), God as the Father, being a Spirit, had no blood to shed; so He prepared a body of flesh and blood (Heb. 10:5), that He might fulfill the prophecy of Isa.43:11, "Beside Me there is no Savior". Thus, when Jesus was born into the world, he was Jehovah our Savior (that is the meaning of the name Jesus), the one God of the universe, the Lord God Almighty, born as a man. This caused the angels to sing, "For there is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ The Lord" (Luke 2:11).

The Holy Ghost is not the third person in the Godhead! The Holy Ghost is the Spirit, Jesus Christ coming to dwell in the hearts and lives of those who receive him. That is why, when speaking of the Spirit, Jesus said "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you" (John 14:16-26; Rom 8:9; 2 Cor.13:5). So there are not three persons in the God-head, but three manifestations of the One God. God is the Savior, and his saving name is now revealed to men as Jesus. Therefore Jesus is the name of God. Salvation consists of deliverance from sin through the blood of Christ. This is accomplished by repentance from sin, (making an about face and turning from sin), water baptism in the Name of Jesus, for the remission (forgiveness and washing away) of sins, and receiving the Baptism of the Spirit, (Holy Ghost), with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues, and the continuance of a righteous life. (Acts 2:26-41)

The Pentecostal Movement is focused on the restoration of Apostolic

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