

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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WHY I LEFT DENOMINATIONALISM

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I once was in denominationalism. “**I thought one church was as good as another.**” I had the concept that it did not matter where I worshiped as long as I worshiped God. Being ignorant of God’s word, I was taught the truth. Jesus says, “*you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free*” (Jn. 8:32). I am so thankful I learned the truth and freed myself from denominationalism.

I learned, according to God’s word, that one church is not as good as another. *The Psalmist says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...”* (Psm. 127:1). The word vain means—empty, worthless and fruitless. Unless the Lord builds the church that I am in, it’s worthless. What does the Bible teach? Jesus said, “*I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it*” (Matt. 16:18). The word **MY** is possessive, and means it belongs to Christ. I wanted to be a part of the church that Christ built, not what man built.

I learned that there is

only one body according to God’s word. Paul said, “*He put all things under his feet and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body*” (Eph. 1:22-23). I learned that other denominational churches are different bodies. Paul said, “*By one spirit we were all baptized into one body*” (1Cor. 12:13). So, there are not many bodies into which we are to be baptized. There is only one body.

I learned, according to God’s word, that the New Testament church is not divided into different denominations. In 1Cor. 1:12-13, Paul was aware that there were contentions at Corinth. Paul writes, “*Now I say this, that each of you says I am of Paul or I am of Apollos or I am of Cephas or I am of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*” Through Paul, I am aware that Christ is not divided into different denominational churches. Jesus adds people to his church which is his body, not to a denominational church, which is another body.

I could not find “MY” denomination in the New Testa-

ment. Paul said, “*Greet one another with a Holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you*” (Roms. 16:16). People say there is nothing in a name. Yet, how many parents would name their daughter Jezebel, or their son Fido? Therefore, there is something in a name. Paul did not say the Baptist, Methodist, or the Pentecostal churches greet you. These are human names built on the foundation of men. I learned that wearing human names is not what the New Testament teaches. Jesus laid down the foundation for the church, built it, and purchased it with his own blood. If Jesus is the foundation of his church, if he built it, and if he purchased it with his own blood, should not his church honor Him by wearing His name (1Cor. 3:11, Matt. 16:18, Acts 20:28)?

These are the reasons why I left denominationalism. Jesus is coming back for His church. He never promised to come for a denominational church. I learned I needed to be in the one body, the Lord’s church, the body of the saved. I invite you to become a member of that body.