

# **The History of the Church**

Dark Ages

AD 33	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
T	H	E		C	H	U	R	C	H		O	F		C	H	R	I	S	T

THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS

# Christianity From the 1<sup>st</sup> Century To Today

## *What Happened?*

- The church in the First Century was so simple.
- It was just the way Christ planned it.

## *Why doesn't the bible teach about denominations?*

- ✓ The Bible is the Word of God
- ✓ Denominations are made by men
  
- **How could something so plain and simple be turned into division, confusion, contradiction, etc...  
How can this happen?**

# How Can This Happen?

**Man has never been satisfied to do things God's ways for long!**

1. Adam & Eve – Law given & broken
2. Cain & Abel – Worship guidelines given – One followed; One substituted
3. Noah – “The thoughts of man's heart were evil continuously”
4. Tower of Babel
5. Abraham / Isaac / Jacob
6. Exodus Generation – Ex. 4:31 “We will follow” / Ex. 14:12 “No we won't”
7. Moses – Tabernacle

# How Can This Happen?

**Man has never been satisfied to do things God's ways for long!**

8. Nadab & Abihu

## **Lev. 10:1-2**

Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

# How Can This Happen?

**Man has never been satisfied to do things God's ways for long!**

8. Nadab & Abihu
9. Land of Canaan – Milk & Honey – Worship Images
10. Prophets Warnings – Often unheeded
11. John the Baptist's Warnings

## **John 1:29**

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,  
"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

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8. Nadab & Abihu
9. Land of Canaan – Milk & Honey – Worship Images
10. Prophets Warnings – Often unheeded
11. John the Baptist's Warnings
12. Jews reject Jesus even though He was the perfect fulfillment of  
all the Old Testament prophecies - He wasn't what they wanted

# How Can This Happen?

**Man has never been satisfied to do things God's ways for long!**

13. Ananias & Sapphira - Holy Spirit given - Church is established exactly the way Jesus planned - Yet some still not obedient

## Acts 5:1-5

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

# How Can This Happen?

**Man has never been satisfied to do things God's ways for long!**

13. Ananias & Sapphira - Holy Spirit given - Church is established exactly the way Jesus planned - Yet some still not obedient

14. Paul saw the beginning of false teaching & perversions of the truth

## **Gal. 1:6-9**

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

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**POINT:**

**NO MAN HAS THE RIGHT TO CHANGE A  
SINGLE PRINCIPLE, POLICY OR  
PRACTICE**

# God's Plan is Simple & Complete

## Luke 8:5-8, 11

A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

- **Pure seed produces only one thing**
  - ✓ **Corn seed produces corn**
  - ✓ **The Word of God Produces ONLY Christians**

- When you take parts of the Word of God and mix it with creeds, human philosophies, opinions, dogmas, traditions etc.
  - ✓ You get a corrupt seed that results in denominations

### **Mat. 7:15**

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

### **Gal. 1:6-8**

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed...

- History shows that some of the first departures from the truth began with the leadership in spite of Paul's warnings:

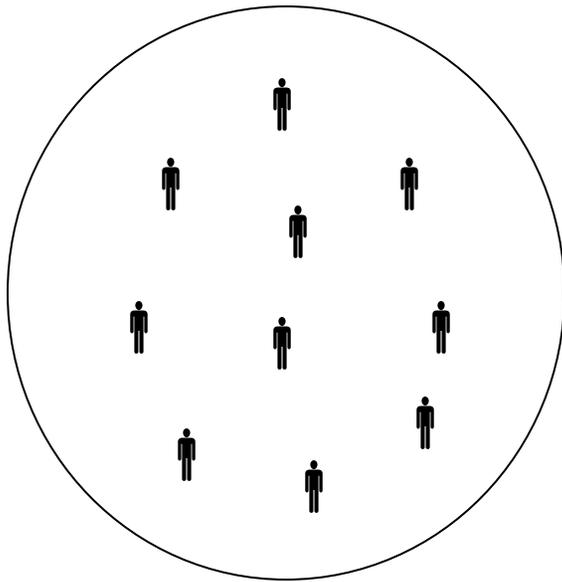
### **Acts 20:17, 28-30**

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

# Early Departures

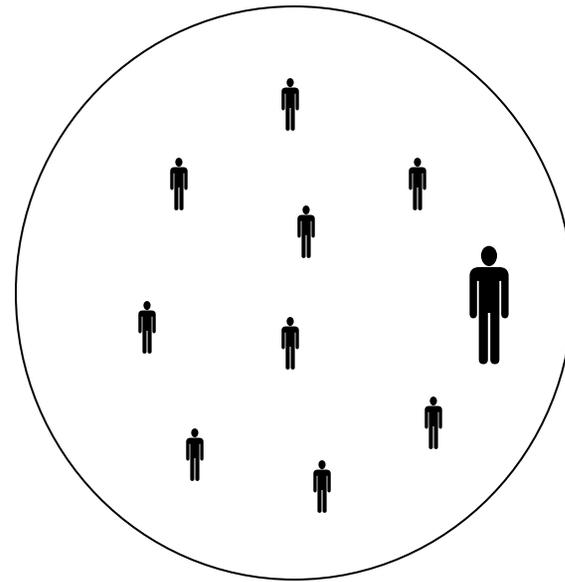
Correct



Local Congregation

 = Elder

Incorrect



Local Congregation

 = Exalted Elder  
or Bishop

# Other Departures

After all the inspired men were gone we begin to see the  
heresy

## **Inventions of men:**

1. “holy water” - first mentioned AD 120
2. Penance as punishment for sin – AD 157
3. Bishops over Elders rankings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Century
4. Saints Day for Martyrs – AD 200
5. Praying to departed Saints – AD 240
6. Sprinkling – AD 250 (Officially accepted – AD 1311)
7. Special clothes for preachers – AD 257
8. Union of Church & State – AD 323

# Other Departures

After all the inspired men were gone we begin to see the  
heresy

## **Inventions of men:**

9. Mass – AD 350

10. Confession – AD 390

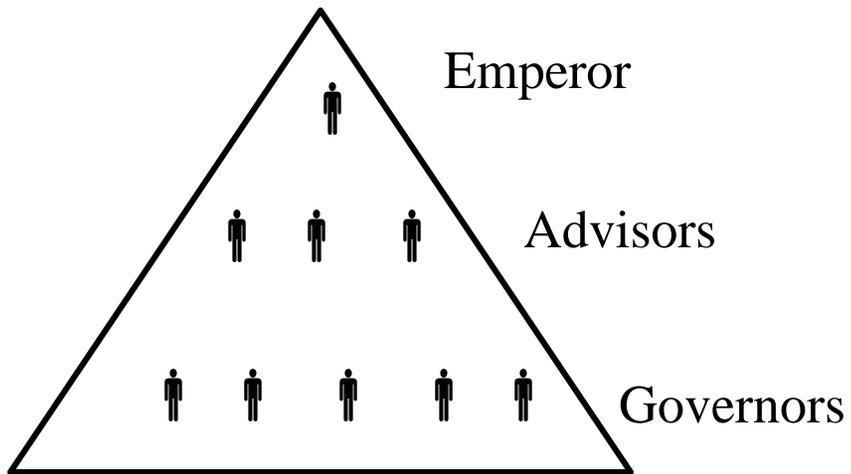
11. Purgatory – 593

12. Universal Pope – 606

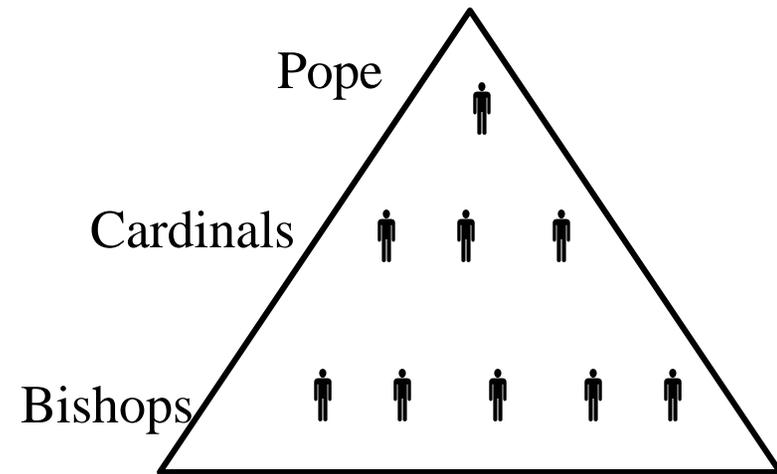
13. The Church patterned itself after the Roman Government:

# Church Patterned After Roman Government

Roman  
Government



Roman  
Church



Dark Ages

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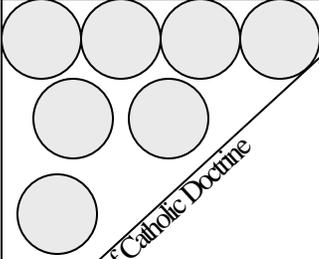
THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS

GREEK CATHOLIC

Dark Ages

AD 33 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
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THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS

Pope Declared Infallible 1870

1054 AD.

GREEK CATHOLIC

# The Formation of Catholic Doctrine

## *Creeds*

1. Nicene Creed – AD 325
2. Constantinople – AD 381
3. Ephesos – AD 431
4. Chalcedon – AD 451
5. Constantinople – AD 553
6. Constantinople – AD 680
7. Nice – AD 787

# Catholic Split

- AD 1054 - The Roman Catholic Church split with the Greek Orthodox Church primarily over two issues:

## 1. **The Doctrine of Penance** (Priest could forgive sin)

- Doctrine foreign to scriptures

## 2. **Separate Priesthood & Celibacy**

- Doctrine foreign to scriptures

- The Catholic Church has taught that priests and nuns should practice celibacy and to abstain from eating meat on Friday

# What Does the Bible Say?

## *Celibacy & Abstaining From Meat?*

### 1 Tim. 4:1-4

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

- Catholics also taught that only priests could understand the Bible and lay people should not even read it
  - ✓ John Wycliffe translated the Bible into the language of the people and the Pope Excommunicated him

# Martin Luther

- In the 16<sup>th</sup> century a Catholic priest could take the corruption no more. Martin Luther wrote his 95 contradictions between the Word of God and Catholic teaching and practices
  - ✓ Luther was a courageous man but unfortunately his only plan was to reform the Catholic church
  - ✓ His goal was to get the Catholic church to stop doing what the Bible prohibited

**Example:** The Catholic Church had built the huge cathedrals by the sweat of craftsmen laboring for years to “pay” for their sin.

The Catholic Church’s emphasis was totally on “works”. You could believe anything you wanted and do anything you liked as long as you “paid” for your sins.

# Luther & Faith Only

- Luther and his followers went to the other extreme and the emphasis was on “faith” and no works. This then was the foundation of the prevailing view today that “faith only” saves. (No Scriptural Support)

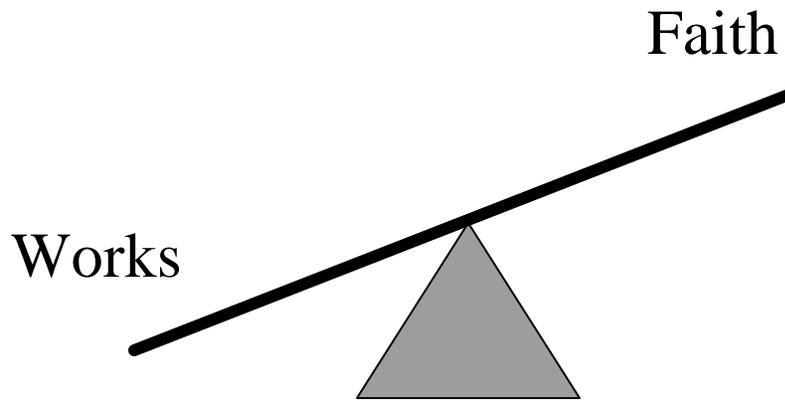
## **James 2:14-18**

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

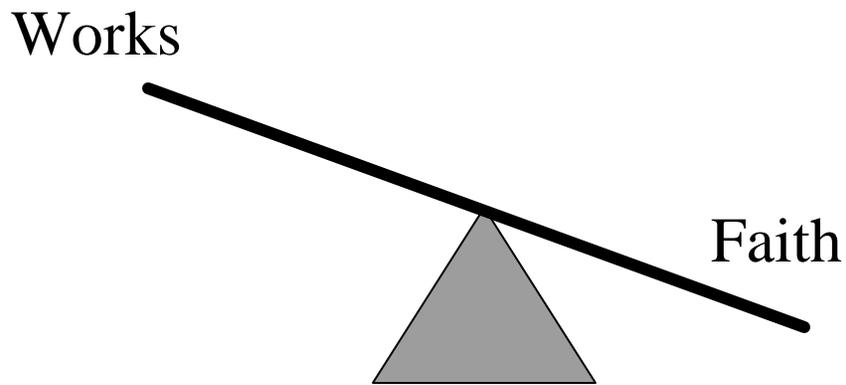
# “Faith Only”

## James 2:18-26

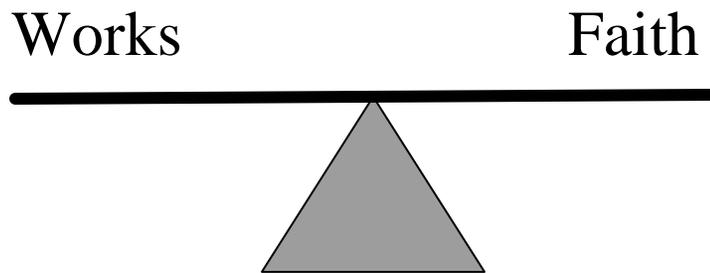
But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also...



Catholic 1200 - 1800



Luther  
Denominations Today



James 2

# Denominations Spring Up & Multiply

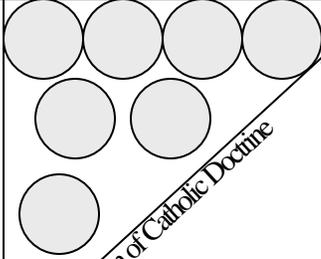
- They were typically named after their founder or a particular principle that they practice:
  - ✓ Luther pleaded with his followers not to call themselves Lutherans because he knew it was sinful. They did it anyway.
  - ✓ Methodists named because of their emphasis on Methodism
  - ✓ Sometimes a denomination was founded on sinful of foundations - The Church of England (Henry VIII)

# Dark Ages

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THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS



*The Formation of Catholic Doctrine*

1530 Lutheran

1608 Episcopal

1739 Methodist

Congregational

Union

1609 United Brethern

Attempted

1536 Presbyterian

Baptist

THE REFORMATION

1611

Pope Declared Infallible 1870

1054 AD.

GREEK CATHOLIC

# Jesus' Church

*He Built it the way He wanted it in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century*

## Mat. 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

- Lawlessness or iniquity means not according to the law  
Without authority or direction!

# Jesus' Church

*He Built it the way He wanted it in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century*

## Mat. 15:8-9

"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." "But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted..."



*Where would Jesus worship today?*

# Three Types of Worship Today

Do Anything You Feel  
Like doing

Do Anything God Has  
Not Specifically  
Banned

Do ONLY What God  
Has Authorized

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# Three Types of Worship Today

Do Anything You Feel Like doing	Do Anything God Has Not Specifically Banned	Do ONLY What God Has Authorized
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Sacrifice Kids</li><li>2. Forbid to Marry</li><li>3. Abstain From Feats</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Strange Fire (Lev. 10)</li><li>2. Most Denominational Practices</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. ONLY What God Has Commanded</li></ol>

# Three Types of Worship Today

Do Anything You Feel Like doing	Do Anything God Has Not Specifically Banned	Do ONLY What God Has Authorized
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Cause Division	Cause Division	No Division. WHY?

# Three Types of Worship Today

Do Anything You Feel Like doing	Do Anything God Has Not Specifically Banned	Do ONLY What God Has Authorized
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Cause Division	Cause Division	No Division. WHY?
Would Christ Be Comfortable Here?	Would Christ Be Comfortable Here?	Would Christ Be Comfortable Here?

# Jesus' Prayer For Unity

## John 17:20-21

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

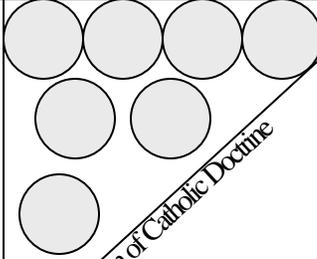
- How can Jesus' prayer be answered today?
  - ? Unity in diversity?
  - ? Unity in authority?

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THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS

Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

Sectarian Churches of Christ

1530 Lutheran

1608 Episcopal

1739 Methodist

Congregational

Union

1609 United Brethern

Attempted

1536 Presbyterian

Baptist

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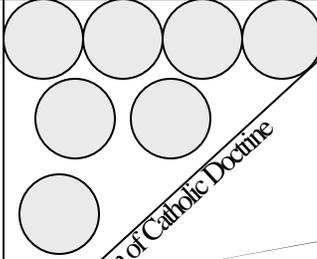
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# The Lord's Church

- People coming back to the simple plan of God
  - ✓ Speak where the Bible speaks, silent where the Bible is silent

Don't you want to be a part of the Church that Jesus built and died for?

- The pure seed (word of God) will produce only one thing...  
**A CHRISTIAN**

# Questions

- **Is there anything we have studied that you don't understand?**
- **Have I taught you anything but the Bible?**
- **Is there anything we have studied that you disagree with?**
- **Is there anything that is keeping you from being baptized right now?**

# Been Baptized Before?

## Acts 19:1-5

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

# Do You Have Family That Is Lost?

## Luke 16:19-31

"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

**-NEXT-**

# Do You Have Family That Is Lost?

## Luke 16:19-31

Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'