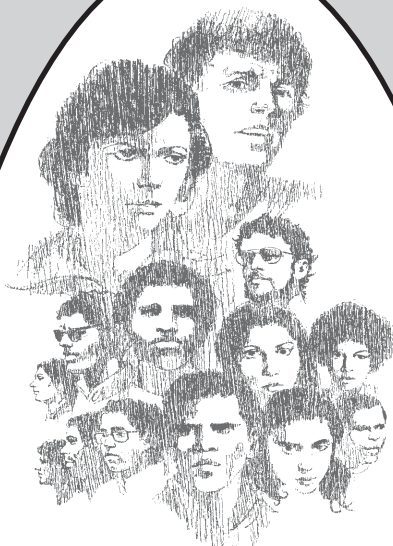


INTRODUCING YOU TO THE CHURCH



BY ORJI ONYEANULAM

Introducing You To The Church

Perhaps, someone will ask: “Which Church?” By this one wants to know the name, founder, and the doctrine it propagates.

When there are different kinds or brands of a certain material in the market, people will look for the genuine original. Why? To eliminate any chance of being deceived by letting the inferior into their hands. This happens especially when it pertains to one’s health in regard to the type of drugs to be administered.

Socially, people desire to be a member of one association or another. They begin by screening various types and are determined to be selective based on the practices of their chosen group. Even among political parties, people will examine the alternatives and make a choice, (though they may not necessarily believe in the party manifesto), because they are attracted by some personality in the party, or by the logo or name of the party, or just because of popular opinion.

Strangely, people do not exercise the same degree of caution in the spiritual realm that they do in other areas. Many think it is enough to identify with any group which advocates belief in God. Why do people do not take time

as they do in other areas of life when it comes to the choice which will determine their future destiny for all of eternity? Admittedly, we live in a world of many churches. Many think it is normal and natural that it should be this way. In the beginning, however, there was but one church (*Matt. 16.13-19*).

You may have been born, by physical birth, into a particular religious group or sect, or as some say, "introduced". But, what really matters is the "truth". What is the "truth?" Pilate asked this question of Jesus (*John 18.38*). In the interest of truth, we wish to introduce you to the church which Jesus built, "*the pillar and the ground of truth*" (*I Tim. 3.15*).

I.

The fact remains that "truth" is God's Word (*John 17.17*); Jesus said, "*I am the truth*" (*John 14.6*); and Paul wrote, "*We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth*" (*2 Cor. 13.8*); and it is only by knowing the truth that we are set free (*John 8.32*). Are you then a truth-lover? Or do you have pleasure in untruthfulness? (*2 Thess. 2.10-12*). Do you turn your ears away from the truth? (*2 Tim. 4.4*)

You cannot join the Church. No one ever did. Any church joined today is not the Church which Jesus built and of which He is head. People who willingly accept the lordship of Christ through obedient faith in Him, turn away from evil (repent), and are baptized into Him, become members of His Church, and are called “Christians”. Those bearing any other name, apart from the divinely designated name “Christians,” are not the people of God.

Because the seed has been sown (*Luke 8.11*), it bears the fruit of new Christians — those who have been born into God’s family, the church, and are built by Christ. Wherever they are they owe allegiance to their Head, who is Christ, through the Word, the truth. This is the Church to which we are introducing you.

II.

Truth (Christ) is the head of this Church. It was founded by truth, and truth directs its affairs—“*Thus saith the truth*” (*the Lord*). We know many who claim to follow the truth, who have their own churches. They are governed from an earthly headquarters, and any “pastor” not working according to their dictates is sent packing.

Church laws, constitutions, catechisms, and creeds are added to the Bible (the truth of God). The creeds take upper hand, to bind the members and force their compliance. This indeed cannot be the Church Jesus built.

The Church Christ built has the Bible, rightly divided (*2 Tim 2.15*), as its only creed. The Bible is sufficient for its rule of faith. No man opens the church, directs its affairs, and becomes the head to lord it over others who are his subjects. Christ opens the church, through the seed sown, and directs its affairs through His truth, the word and Christians are His subjects, as He says, "*and all you brethren*" (*Matt. 23.8*), and "*I am among you as He that serves*" (*Luke 22:27*).

This indeed is the church of the Bible. It cannot be otherwise. Or else it ceases to be the church of Christ, and becomes the church of men, even though it may bear a scriptural name.

III.

The truth is that the church is so important to Christ because it is His spiritual family. But why should people disregard what is so important to Christ that He gave

His love and life for it? (*Eph. 3.9-10; 5.22-27, 32; Acts 20.28*).

Really, when a church is a denomination, it is built by some man (*1 Cor. 1.10-13*), who heads it by creed, power, and constitution. He has the gall to tell you to join any existing church, not to preach about the true church, that the church is not important, that the church does not save, that it doesn't matter which church you belong to, and to follow Christ with or without a church. These are the words of men, the voices of falsehood—not truth, not God's Word. This person has no authority from the truth (*cf. Matt. 21.23-27*). Yes, Paul's prediction that "...men will arise and pervert the truth, in order to draw away disciples after them." (*Acts 20.30*) has been fulfilled.

Paul preached Christ crucified; He spoke of Christ and His Church (*Eph. 5.32*); He affirmed that Christ is the Head of His Church (*Col. 1.18; Eph. 2.16, 20-22*); Christ, as the savior of the body, puts the saved into the Church (*Acts 2.39, 41, 47; Eph. 5.23*); At the end of time He will send angels into the Church to winnow out those who walk unworthily (*Matt. 13.41; 1 Cor. 15.24; Eph. 5.26-27*).

IV.

Reader, you have been introduced to the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Have you been confused about the religious chaos in our world, and concerned about your soul? Then you have no choice but to follow the truth of God. Do not follow men, for even an angel cannot preach any other gospel contrary to the faith once delivered to the saints (*Gal. 1.6-10; Jude 3*). You can accept, deny, reject, thwart, wrest the truth, but it remains unchanged. Even the gates of Hades cannot overcome it. (*2 Cor. 13.8; Matt. 16.18*).

Conclusion

Why not come to the truth today? For one is only saved *“through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth”* (*2 Thess. 2.13*), so that you can *“worship God in spirit and truth”* (*John 4.23-24*).

We *“commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified”* (*Acts 20.32*): *“...so that the truth of the gospel might continue with you”* (*Gal. 2.5*).

The strength of the church is the strength of Christ. It will not be defeated until He is defeated. The stability of the Church is based upon Jesus' word through the apostles. The inspired Gospel message gives individuals and congregations steadfastness, because its anchor is the Son of God through the Word of God.



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