WHICH CHURCH WOULD JESUS JOIN IF HE WERE HERE IN THE CITY OF …

The topic from which I have chosen to preach is, “Which Church Would Jesus Join If He Were In The City of _____.”

There are more than 300 denominations which call themselves Christian in the United States, and another 200 cults and sects, making about 500 different churches. Now in addition to that there are thousands of religions. Are all of them right?

Does it make a difference what you believe? Or do you folks say, “well, we're all going the same way.” how could we all be going the same way and believe so differently? People who say that are just not willing to face the facts.

I believe that God has some honest-hearted men and women everywhere, in all faiths. But I also believe what the Bible says in John 10:16, “Other sheep I have which are not of this fold: (but it doesn't stop there) them also I must bring … there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”

I don't believe Jesus has chopped Himself up into 500 pieces. In Matthew 7:21 Jesus says,

> 21 “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
> Then Jesus said,
> 22 “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in your name case out devils? And in your name done many wonderful works?
> Then I will say unto them,
> 23 “… depart from me, I never knew you …”

And they were doing some good! They were doing many wonderful works. Healing the sick, carrying food to the hungry, these folks were busy, they weren't just sittin' around. Giving their time freely, driving all into the ghettos with their cars. But Jesus will say unto them, I never knew you. Because people are part right doesn't make them right. Deception is the mixing of right and wrong. You'll never be deceived with wrong. If somebody takes some poison and mix it with grape juice, poison is bad, grape juice is good, but if they mix them together, they might deceive you into drinking poison.

Jesus says in Matthew 5:19 “in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.” Now they worship Him! Calling on His name, singing these beautiful songs, testifying and praying, and it sounds good!

Please pray about this as you listen. Sunday-keeping is a man-made commandment. And everybody who's heard this on this sanctuary is without excuse! And yet there are are those who say, “I'm gonna keep on doing it. You may.

But ladies and gentlemen, God has a church. In Matthew 16:17 Jesus says, “thou art Peter, and upon this rock will I build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against.”

In Ephesians 4:5, the Bible says, “One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” When the apostles were preaching there were no denomination. But in the 16th century the Lutherans developed. The Calcinist came a little before that, and the Baptists and Methodists came later. But in the days of the apostles they didn't have any denominations, they were Christians.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we all went to the Bible for doctrine we'd all be one, we would all believe the same thing, because the Bible doesn't teach 500 different things. But since that impossible, the Lord is calling the people out of Babylon.

And I declare unto you today, that there is a church that stays close to God's word, and does not treach a man-made commandment! Teaches instead the commandments of God. And if the Bbile is true, that Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, if He came to _____ to live, He would findd that church and join it!

In Matthew 7:20 Jesus says, “by their fruits ye shall know them.” Now Jesus didn't say He's got a church, He gave some identifying marks: He tells you how His church is dressed, and how it acts, and when you find it, He even tells you the size of it! Matthew 7:13,14

> “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to

destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Now I gonna read a text that will take care of 499 religions. Revelation 12:17:

"And the dragon (Satan) was wroth (angry) with the woman (church) and went to make war with the remnant (last) of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ."

If Jesus came to _____ to live, He wouldn't just join any church He ran into, He would look for a church that keeps the commandments of God. How do I know? Because Jesus said in John 15:10,

"If ye keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

And Hebrews 13:8 says,

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday,… today… and for ever."

He'd find a church that was open on the Sabbath, because Luke 4:16 says,

"… his custom (habit) was ..." to go to church on the Sabbath. Which church would He join? He'd join a Sabbath-keeping church! Which church would He join? He'd join a commandment-keeping church! Which church would He join? He'd join a a church which teaches clean habits!

Jesus tells a story about a woman who had 10 pieces of silver and she lost one. How many did she lose? Now the woman represents what? What ten things did God give the church? He gave 10 commandments.

Now, Jesus, in His parable said this woman lost one. She did lose all nine; nearly every church in Christendom keeps nine and the Roman Church keeps eight! Amen.

Now you don't worry about what you got but you worry about what you lost! So the woman lost one! There's only one thing that the protestant world in angry about, and that's why they wanna throw the whole law out. But with all the stealing and killing today, we need more law!

But this woman in Jesus' parable, had ten pieces of silver. And the Bible says she lost one! And after she lost it she decided she'd look for it, and the Bible says in the parable, the first thing she did was to light a candle. Let's say Amen!

If you lost a piece of silver, you wouldn't go fumbling around in the dark. You'd get a light! The Bible says "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." If you're gonna find what the church has lost, you've gotta go to the word of God, for this is the light of the world! Let's say Amen!

So the woman lit a candle. Then she started looking for that piece of silver. And I can imagine that that woman got a broom, and she started raking things in the dark corner and raking things out in the light! And she examined what every came out in the light. And if something came out in the light that was no good, she swept it up and put it in the trash can. Let's say Amen! She wasn't looking for trash, shw was looking for silver. She kept on sweeping! She kept on sweeping from room to room, looking for that one last thing. Satisfied with the nine she had! But looking for what was lost. Until finally, she raked it up!

And Jesus said when she found it, she sent out a call to the neighbors, and she said, "Come! And rejoice with me! I found what I lost!"

That's why I'm preaching. Come and rejoice, we have found somethin'! How did you find it? With the light!!!

If Jesus came to _____ He'd get Him a broom. And He'd go sweeping down _____ street looking for something! There're a lot of beautiful churches and buildings all over town, and Jesus would keep on sweepin'. And He would come by on the Sabbath and He would walk up and try the door and it be locked! He knocked on the door, and nobody would answer. Finally an old deacon would comeout and say, "What do you want!" He'd say "I wanna get in my church! On the Sabbath!" He'd say "the church ain't open today."

Jesus would take His broom and go sweeping on. Looking for somebody! Which church would He

join!!