



IF CHRIST CAME TO CHICAGO

Honesty and Intelligence Combined
are Satan's deadliest foes; separated,
they may become his most powerful
allies. --M. H. BOND



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BY M. H. BOND



“If Jesus came back to earth would He attend our church?”

This was the text used one Sunday morning several years ago in Chicago by one of its popular ministers.

Whose church would Christ come to if not His own? That is, if He has one.

Would he not?

Where is it located and how can it be identified?

What kind of an institution was that which Jesus referred to when He said:

“Upon this rock I will build my church.”

Matt, II, 16, 18,

Reader! Are you dissatisfied with your

church association, experience or observation? Did you ever carefully examine the differences or note the discrepancies between the popular religions and fashionable churches of our day and time and the organization referred to by Jesus Christ as "MY CHURCH."

Has He a church of His own, after the original plan of building, in Chicago?

That no mistake may occur in our investigation let us move out with the original pattern in our hand—The New Testament Scriptures:

Paul called to be an Apostle of Jesus Christ unto the Church of God, which is at Corinth—called to be Saints, etc.—Cor. I, 1-2.

Have we found the "Church of God?"

To this same church and in the same letter he says:

"Now ye are the Body of Christ"

Have we found the Church of Christ? for Paul says:

"For His Body's sake, which is the Church."—Col. I, 24th and 18th verse. "And He is the head of the Body, the Church."

And let us remember and not forget that

there is but "one body."—Eph. 4:4. Not two, five or five hundred.

Of what is this original church, of which He said "I will build," composed ?

"And God hath set some in the church, first, Apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly, teachers; after that miracles, then gifts of healing," etc.—1 Cor. 12, 27, 28. Again :

"And He (Christ) gave some Apostles, and some Prophets and some Evangelists," etc. What for ?

"For the perfecting of Saints; for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body (Church) of Christ."

How long were these to continue ? "Till we all come in the *unity* of the faith—not divisions into *many* faiths. "And the *knowledge*,"—not beliefs—"of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

"That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine," etc.—Eph. 4, 11-14.

May not the absence of this ancient order account in a measure for the uncertainties that afflict the religious world to-day ?

Again: Did not the Master say : "Go ye,"

those whom *He* had called, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature: he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

"And *these signs shall follow them that believe.*" Believe what! The Gospel, of course. "In my name they shall cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues," etc.; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

"And they went forth, the Lord working with them, confirming *the word*, with signs following."—Mark 16, 13-20.

Again: When Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and said: "But this (the gift of tongues) is that (spirit or power) which was spoken of by the Prophet Joel." "And it shall some to pass in the *last days*, saith God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams," etc.—Acts 2:16-20.

But we are told that these things are "done away," and, "are no longer needed," etc..

"That they are "done away" in fashionable and popular churches—churches organized

or "reformed" by man. none need to dispute.

But in this day of rapid growth of skepticism are they not needed to identify, confirm and strengthen the believer in the Scripture which tells us that : "I am God: I change not," and in the statement of St. Paul: "Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, to-day and forever." And if "*all* the promises of God are yea and amen in Christ Jesus" to the *believer*—not the *religious unbeliever*, why should His promise of salvation to the baptised believer be affirmed to-day, while His promise that "these signs shall follow" the same believer be denied, repudiated or ridiculed by professing Christians ?

Has this primitive original patterned church a counterpart representative in the city of Chicago ? Are *all* the points of identification complete in any, or all, of the "reformed" churches ? Will Mr. Dowie's claim as "Elijah" or the "Restorer" stand the test of a Scripture and rational analysis ? Is he an originator or simply an *imitator* ? How much or what part of the original primitive patterned church and Gospel of Jesus Christ has he "restored ?"

"To the law and to the testimony ; if they

speak not according to the word it is because there is no light in them.”—Isa. 8:20.

In the city of New York, not long ago, the Rev. Thomas Dixon, in preaching from the text: “The Larger Church Life,” contended that “present church organization was a failure,” and said: “The organized church is rapidly disappearing; it has been a human organization purely invented by man’s genius to further the interests of religion.” “I venture to say,” said he, “that not one of the churches now existing will survive 200 years.”

Rev. Dixon may not be authority with the majority of religious people, but the number of men and women who have come to regard the modern church and its teachings as far removed from the ancient order of church organization and doctrine taught by Jesus Christ, are rapidly on the increase.

A return either to the “old paths,” or an abandonment of the religious idea, with thousands must inevitably take place.

If Christ should come to Chicago where would He find His church? Would it have the endorsement of “the wise and the noble” according to this world’s judgment or desire?

Will Christ look for a fashionable, a popular or a *Biblical* Church? If His followers are so obscure or unfortunate as to belong to a "sect everywhere spoken against," will it make any difference with Him?

He *is* coming—perhaps sooner than most people expect—coming to meet and claim *His Bride*, the church, *His* church, "*The Lamb's Wife*," —NOT WIVES—for Jesus Christ was not a polygamist neither in theory or practice.

If He has built, or is building again today, and is at the head of, and acknowledges this "one body"—not two nor one hundred, will He not come to just such a church as He organized and left when He went away

If He can find it.

Could He find it?

If Christ came to Chicago?

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints meets at No. 8, South Wood St., West Side, every **Sunday**. Preaching 3 and 7:45 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday evening.

At 216 35th St., South Side, 10:45 a. m. and 7:20 p. m. Sundays. Prayer meeting Wednesday nights.

P. S.—This Church has not now, nor has it had in the past, any connection whatever with what is known as the “Mormon” Church of Utah. It repudiates the evils of that apostate System—such as polygamy, &c. ; believed in and still practiced by that people.



The courage and wisdom that dis-
possesses mankind of prejudice born of
tradition, and strengthened by popular
accredit, marks the path of progress in
human history.

