When we “provoke one another unto love and good works” (Heb. 10:23-25), not only do we lift them to greater heights but we also lift ourselves to the pentacle of strength! Our concern and interest in our fellow Christians are shown by our own faithfulness. Where these things are not present neither is Bible love present. Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (Jn. 13:34-35).

When Paul instructs us to look back to the Old Testament for our learning, patience, and comfort, we can have that advantage. He wrote, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope (Rom. 15:4). One of those places where we can find blessings in instruction is found in Deuteronomy 6:18: “And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers.” The promised land for them was Canaan, but for us it is Heaven. It will come to those who “do that which is right.” The Scriptures thoroughly furnish us in the things that are right (II Tim. 3:16-17). How blessed we are to have the Bible--if we harmonize our life with its teaching.
Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .
We Are To Preach Christ, Not the Church?
Gary Colley

The church of the Bible is not a denomination. In fact, the only reference to denominationalism in the New Testament condemns division (I Cor. 1:10-13). Many and various are the teachings of denominations concerning their thoughts on God’s plan for saving the world. The different plans offered by men do not change God’s divine plan in the least. Some teach that babies should be “baptized” by sprinkling or the sinner should pray instead of obey or faith alone saves, which is expressly condemned in the Bible (Jas. 2:14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26) or that Jesus saves and not the church and one can be saved outside as well as in the church of Christ.

None of these are the plan brought to the earth by God. God sent His only begotten Son to seek and save the lost (John 3:16, Luke 19:10). God’s plan was that Jesus should seek the lost by establishing the church. The church was planned, prophesied, promised, and predicted for several hundred years before its establishment. In Acts 2, the church is an established reality and is represented as being the place prepared by Christ for the saved (Acts 2:41, 47).

The church is not a part of the plan of salvation. It is the plan of salvation. According to the Bible, men cannot be saved outside of Christ, the church or body of Christ, which terms all refer to the place of salvation. The plan for entering the church of Christ includes a man hearing, believing in Christ with all of his heart, repentance, confession, and being baptized (Acts 8:35-39).

Jesus, in carrying out God’s will, never promised to save anyone outside the church which He built with His teaching and purchased with His blood (Matt. 16:18-19; 28:19-20; Acts 20:28). The church is the only institution over which He is head (Eph. 1:22-23) and the only one on the earth now that He promised to save eternally (Eph. 5:23).

With these thoughts clearly before us, one expresses his ignorance of the Scriptures who might say, “I am so glad to hear someone preach Jesus as the Saviour and not the Church as the Saviour.” When deadly persecution arose with the stoning of Stephen, the members of the church at Jerusalem were “scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria . . .” and “went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:1-4).

Preaching Christ and preaching the Word are one and the same (Acts 8:4-5) and the same as preaching the church or kingdom (Acts 8:12). It is important for us to study to be approved of God (II Tim. 2:15).
Women of the Word

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