

The Father and Teacher of God's Church

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By Robert G. Theophilus

THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

Christ at His First Coming to the unconverted nation of Israel explained to His disciples what their role would be when it came to sharing the truth they had with others. They were not to be like the scribes and the Pharisees. They were not to think of themselves as being fathers of men's faith nor as masters (teachers) through which men are made to understand the spiritual truths of the Bible. What does this mean for men who today say they are the great teachers of God's truth to men?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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Christ in teaching His disciples, gave us a great deal of information allowing those of us who are patiently and carefully studying our Bible, to understand the very great limitations of men who would want to be the great and formidable teachers of God's truth to others.

I would expect that Christ's words recorded in the Bible are authoritative and that there is a definite reason why He spoke them. I would also think that what He says sets the standard and is the context in which other Scriptures are to be read and understood if we are to get their correct and intended meaning to all true Christians throughout the ages.

It is a sad and disheartening truth that religion has always been a means of exercising control over the masses, not true Christianity, but all the false Christian churches as well as all the other non-Christian religions. Whenever we find men placing themselves as the central authority in determining what is right and wrong, in claiming to be the representatives of a deity or god of one kind or another, to know what it is men must do to please that god or deity which they claim to represent and that it is absolutely necessary to be part of their particular organization to reap the reward the god or deity they represent has to offer, we find ourselves looking at men and organizations of men whose goal is to exploit financially those they can convince to follow them.

It has always been clear in the Bible that there would be considerably more false prophets — men claiming to be speaking on behalf of God than there would be true ones — using religion as a means for them to

make money. We simply need to look at what is presently happening in our present-day world among the many fabulously rich televangelists preaching to the world from their opulent headquarters buildings and campuses and who are traveling the world in the comfort of their personal executive jets with some of them owning 2 and 3 of them. But they claim to have a calling from God to preach the Gospel, they are God's humble servants wanting to be treated as the rich and famous of the world and who are living their private lives in luxurious surroundings their followers could never hope to have for themselves.

That the deceived world are victims of these so-called "men of God" is not to be unexpected but that the called and chosen of the true God be followers of such men and their organizations is of much greater consequence. If after having been called and chosen, they go back into the world, they have lost their salvation whether it's following false prophets or simply having abandoned all religion and staying home doing their own thing as they did before becoming converted.

Let's examine what Christ taught His disciples about fathers and masters and hopefully realize how these teachings of Christ radically change what many think is the way God's true church was to exist.

Let's get started.

Christ Teaches His Disciples

In Mat 23 we find 2 fundamental teachings of critical importance to understanding the functioning of God's one, yes there is just one, and only true church.

Mat 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Mat 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

Mat 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

Mat 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

The Jews, the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah, the Southern King-

dom, had gone off into captivity after the Northern Kingdom (the other 10 tribes) who had been taken captive by the Assyrians. In both cases, it was because of their continuing disobedience to God. Some of the Jews (members of the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah) who were captives under the Persians, returned to Jerusalem after Xerxes, the King of Persia issued a declaration that whosoever wanted to return to Jerusalem could do so; not all of them did. As a result of their captivity, the Jews added many more requirements to the law they had received as they wanted to make sure they would never get close to breaking it again so as to never go back into captivity. The result was Judaism which is not the law given by God through Moses to Israel and which has become a religion unto itself. Christ rebuked them for doing so in Mat 23: 13 -36. According to Mat 23:4, Christ's assessment of what they had done was to make the observance of God's law a heavy and difficult burden for the people to carry but which themselves did not follow in the least bit.

Mat 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

Mat 23:6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

Mat 23:7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

They dressed in such a way as to make sure people would know they were the great teachers of God's truth. They loved to be greeted by everyone they met and to be called Rabbi which is to say master which in Bible terminology means "teacher." They thought of themselves as being the great teachers of God's truth who were to be recognized, honored and respected as special men living among the general population. Christ didn't agree with them as we will see in the following verses.

Be Not Called Rabbi

After having described the behavior of the scribes and the Pharisees to His disciples, Christ says the following to them:

Mat 23:8 But be not ye [Christ's disciples and all truly converted Christians] called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

The message of this verse is of the greatest importance to all true Chris-

tians. What Christ clearly tells His disciples is that none of them should be called "Rabbi" nor "Master."

Why?

Because Christ said they, the disciples and all truly converted Christians, have only one Master or teacher, Himself, Christ. And, because the disciples, and all truly converted Christians, are all brethren or brothers, none of them can be the great and revered teachers of God's truth to them. There is only one Rabbi and Master of truly converted Christians, and this is Christ. Christ upon His ascension to His Father after having completed the mission given Him by God the Father, resumed His role in the God family as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman responsible for teaching all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones as long as they remain faithful to their calling.

If this information about the holy spirit is new to you, I would refer you to the Preamble to this study and to the links in that Preamble to other studies explaining the holy spirit.

Now going back to the topic under discussion, if we understand what Christ told His disciples then it means that NO man or organizations of men can claim to be the ones who have the truth and the commission to teach it to others. Christ says He was the one and only Rabbi and Master to His disciples and to all truly converted Christians.

What else did Christ tell His disciples at that time?

Call NO Man Your Father

Let's now read Mat 23:9 where Christ speaks another truth which completely contradicts the idea that men claiming to be God's representatives have any ability to spiritually beget men. In other words, the idea that men through their preaching of what they call the truth are able to bring unconverted men to God and to effect their conversion is not supported by the Bible.

Mat 23:9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Christ clearly says that His disciples and all truly converted Christians, are not to call any man their spiritual father. The disciples were given to Christ by God the Father. This means that His disciples were called by God the Father; they were spiritually begotten by God, not flesh-and-blood men.

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Joh 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Christ's disciples were called by God the Father. He is the one in the God family who calls men and if they accept their calling, they become chosen and are given over to Christ, the holy spirit in the God family who has the responsibility of teaching them all things.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, [Christ] except [unless] the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I [Christ] will raise him up at the last day. [at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day]

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [this is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman] whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Whatever a Christians comes to know and understand about the spiritual truths contained in God's holy Bible comes from Christ teaching them. It is Christ teaching them, making it possible for them to have understanding and not just knowledge (1Co 2: 14). This is what it means for Christ to teach all things to truly converted Christians not that individual Christians will know and understand all the spiritual truths of the Bible.

Again, that Christ after His ascension to His Father is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to God the Father's called and chosen one is something that is covered in the Preamble to this study and, in even more detail, in the 2 studies shown at the end of the Preamble.

Christ said He would manifest Himself to all truly converted Christians.

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall

be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

How would He do that? By giving him more understanding of the truths of the Bible as he studies it. Do you want to know if you still have dwelling in you the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word? From year to year, you will be growing in knowledge and understanding of the spiritual truths contained in your Bible. This is how Christ will manifest Himself to you.

Let's continue reading Mat 23.

Mat 23:10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

This verse repeats the message given in Mat 23:8 without mentioning the requirement not to be called Rabbi though a Rabbi is a Master and a Master is another way of saying "teacher." So, it is essentially saying the same thing as Mat 23:8.

Mat 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Among the disciples and truly converted Christians, he who is the greatest in God's eyes is he who serves other truly converted Christians. How does He serve them? Not physically but spiritually by sharing with them the spiritual truths he is given to know as he studies God's holy Bible. He serves them by not being like the scribes and the Pharisees. His desire is to help fellow Christians and not seek to be treated in any special way by them. All Christians are brothers with none having a higher status in God's eyes than any other Christians.

Mat 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Christians who think of themselves as being better than their fellow Christians will be abased by God. Their reward in the kingdom of God will be less than what they could have had if they had remained humble. Christians who though having a great deal of knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures, remain humble in sharing it with their fellow Christians will be given a greater reward by God.

God's Spiritual Nation

In the verses of Mat 23 we have just reviewed, Christ makes it clear that the one and only possible father, spiritually speaking, of Christians is

the holy spirit God the Father. He is the one responsible for calling and choosing men. He does so by doing what no man can do and that is open their minds to accept spiritual truth which before he had always rejected as being foolishness and by keeping on giving him more truth until he comes to the realization that God exists and that he has to make the decision to submit to Him or to remain in the world. If his decision is to try to obey God as best he can in all things then he becomes chosen and God the Father gives him access to God the Word and Spokesman who will be the means by which he will grow in knowledge and understanding of God's spiritual truth as he studies God's holy Bible.

All those called and chosen by God the Father and who are being taught all things by the God the Word and Spokesman are members of God's spiritual nation or God's Church wherever they may be in the world, whatever language they may speak, by themselves or in little groups.

As we have just seen, Christ tells us that Christians are to call no man their father which is to say, that a man was the means by which they have come to be called and chosen and that Christians are to call no man Rabbi, Master or teacher because their teacher is God the Word and Spokesman.

What about the many churches of God in existence today? Are they and can they be God's Church?

Let's continue our analysis.

Organizations of Men

Everywhere we look in the world, we see organizations of men calling themselves churches.

They pretty well all follow a very similar organizational model. They read Eph 4: 11 and come to the conclusion that the different positions mentioned in that verse constitute the organizational building blocks of God's Church.

Eph 4:10 He [Christ] that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Eph 4:11 And he [Christ] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

This is why in most Christian and Protestant churches, we see all or most of these positions.

Christ had personally trained His disciples and after His ascension, they had the knowledge required to train men to be evangelists, pastors and teachers who basically are all prophets. A prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of someone else; sometimes it's on behalf of another man and sometimes it's on behalf of false gods and sometimes it's on behalf of the one and only true God. A prophet is not always someone who has received a message from God about future events that he is to transmit to a person or a group.

Exo 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Aaron would be Moses' spokesman or prophet to Pharaoh.

1Ki 18:19 Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

These men were spokesmen (prophets) for the pagan god Baal.

Neh 6:7 And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

Nehemiah was falsely accused of having appointed men to be his spokesmen (prophets) to Judah and their message would be that he was their king. Their message would have been a social and political one.

God's church started off as an unconverted physical nation which never became converted, the ancient nation of Israel; its conversion will be at a time yet future to our time. It had a physical priesthood and a religion of repetitive, physical sacrifices and symbolic ceremonies and rituals which never satisfied the requirements of God's spiritual law. Yet despite their inability to obey God even in the performance of these physical tasks, they were God's Church or congregation in the wilderness.

Act 7:38 This is he, that was in the [church in the wilderness](#) with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

But, it wasn't to remain that way because God is a spirit and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

In New Testament times, God's nation is no longer physical but spiritual.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

And those whose hearts (minds) are circumcised, are those whose attitude of mind is to keep God's law.

Rom 2:25 For [physical] circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

Circumcision in the flesh, by itself, means nothing. What is important is whether one is keeping or breaking God's law. What God wants and, it is the only thing He wants from men, is their obedience. So, God's nation in NT times is all those whose attitude of mind is to try to obey God in all things as best as they can. The very same thing can be said for baptism.

If one is baptized and his attitude is not to obey God, then his baptism was just a bath and conversely, if someone is not baptized but chooses to obey God when called, then in God's eyes, he is as thought he had been baptized. This is exactly what God through Paul is telling us in Rom 2: 25 and 2: 26.

Rom 2:26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

In the Apostolic Church or God's First Century Church the offices of responsibility mentioned in Ep 4: 11 were possible. The apostles had been trained by Christ and they had knowledge which was sure and could be taught to others. It was not their best interpretation of what the Scriptures meant. This made it possible for them to train men to act as ministers such as evangelists, prophets, preachers and teachers.

Then intense and sustained persecutions came upon God's Church and it had to flee into the wilderness. As the apostles and those they had trained died out, the truth received from Christ gradually was lost with only a few outstanding requirements such as keeping the Sabbath and the 10 commandments remaining through the ages. Couldn't God have protected His Apostolic Church from persecutions and maintained it exactly as it was organized in the First Century? Yes, He could but why didn't He?

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days **spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

We have been in the last days since the day of Pentecost. When Christ came to Israel, it was at the beginning of the 5th day of God's plan of salvation for mankind which is to last 7 days where a day in fulfillment is a 1,000 years.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

In OT times God spoke to His physical nation by men (prophets) He sent them but in NT times, in the last days, God is speaking to His spiritual nation by His Son, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God the Father's called and chosen ones.

God's First Century Church was a transition point between God's physical nation and God's spiritual nation. Heb 1: 1-2 makes it clear it was not to continue as it then existed. God's Church continued but no longer as an organization of men but through individual Christians called and chosen by God the Father. Their relationship with God is through Christ (1Ti 2: 5) who is also responsible for teaching them all things (Joh 14:26). It is not through men or organizations of men.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Christians are those who are pleasing God, not men or organizations of men.

Rom2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; **whose praise is not of men, but of God.**

Gal 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? **for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**

Christians have a direct relationship with God through Christ. They are not being taught by men or organizations of men who don't have any more truth than any other men even if they are truly converted Christians. All Christians are being taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. No one has a special relationship with God where He reveals truth to them that others can only get to know through them. Men are not the mediators between Christians and God, and they are not their teachers, Christ, the holy spirit God the Word, is the one teaching them as they study God's holy Bible.

Salvation is a personal and individual process between men and God through Christ not through organizations of men.

God's spiritual nation is all those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father and who are being taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman as they study their Bible wherever they may be in the world by themselves or in small groups of true believers.

Conclusion

The hard to believe truth is that God's NT Church is not a physical organization of men through which God is working to call and teach men the way to salvation.

Christ makes it plain that Christians are not to think of any man as being responsible for being their spiritual father which is to say, as having been the means by which they became converted. The spiritual begetting of men is something only God the Father can do. No Christian is to call or consider any man as being their Father spiritually speaking; only God the Father can call men.

Also, no Christian is to think of himself as being a Rabbi, a master or a teacher as Christians have only one teacher, Christ.

In practical terms, this means that God is not using men to call men and

He is not using truly converted Christians to teach men whether as individuals or as an organized group. It also means that God's Church in NT times is not and cannot be organizations of men led by a man through whom God gives them knowledge and understanding of the spiritual truths of the Bible.

However, truly converted Christians are to have fellowship with other truly converted Christians when some are known.

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

The purpose of their fellowship is spiritual not social. It is a time when Christians share with other Christians the spiritual truths they have been given to know as they study their Bible. When doing so they are prophesying and this is something all Christians are to do when possible. As they do so they are helping each other to grow their knowledge and understanding of the truth with as always, God being the one giving them understanding of the spiritual truths of the Bible.

1Th 5:20 Despise not prophesying.

1Co 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

Please see the following studies which you can access by clicking on the following hyperlinks where Christian prophesying is explained: [Unity in God's Church](#) and [The Ministry and God's Truth](#) .

God's one, true Church is not organized as the many false Christian churches of this world nor is its organization like the one that existed in God's First Century Church. Christians are not being called nor are they being taught by men or organizations of men as no man can be their spiritual father and no man or organization of men can be the teachers who give them understanding of God's spiritual truth.

God's Church exists in all truly converted Christians wherever they may be in the world, by themselves or in little groups, who are being taught by God the Word as they study their Bible.

Salvation is not a work of men.

