

## Outline 22

# Just Another Skin on the Wall?

- I. Someone joining a church today must decide among hundreds available to choose from.
- A. “There is one body and one Spirit . . . one hope . . . ; one Lord, one \_\_\_\_\_, one baptism.” **EPHESIANS 4:4-6 (1126)**
  - B. “The path of the just . . . shines \_\_\_\_\_ unto the perfect day.” **PROVERBS 4:18 (607)**
- II. Why are there so many churches today?
- A. Roman emperor Constantine’s Edict of Milan in A.D. 313 freed the church to worship and preach.
    1. Under his rule, the church and state \_\_\_\_\_, which set the stage for compromise with paganism and persecution of dissenters.
    2. Persecution in the Dark Ages was masterminded by the union of church and state.
  - B. Toward the end of the Dark Ages many lights were lit, often on \_\_\_\_\_ campuses, for truth and reform.
    1. Martin Luther recovered the truth of salvation by faith in Jesus. (Lutherans)
      - a. He, and the Reformers who followed him, began studying and preaching with no intention of forming a \_\_\_\_\_ church.
      - b. Upon Luther’s death, his followers failed to go \_\_\_\_\_ than he did in his search for truth, a pattern followed as well by the followers of subsequent Reformers.
    2. John Calvin focused on “the election” of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian can enjoy in Christ. (The Reformed Church or Presbyterians)
    3. Congregationalists left Calvinists to establish a less hierarchical form of government.
    4. Baptists arose from one wing of the English Congregationalists and recovered the truth of baptism by \_\_\_\_\_ rather than sprinkling of infants. (Anabaptists)
    5. John Smyth left the Church of England and began the exodus to the New World in search of religious freedom. (Pilgrims)

6. John Wesley learned from Moravian Christians the good news of growth and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, and founded the Methodists (out of the Church of England).
7. William Miller, a Baptist farmer in New York state, led a revival through studying Daniel. His followers expected Jesus to return in 1844.
  - a. Following “the Great Disappointment” an interdenominational group recovered the truth about the end-time \_\_\_\_\_, which began in 1844, and the truth of the seventh-day Sabbath.
  - b. Building on the great Bible truths that had been recovered during the Reformation period, the Seventh-day \_\_\_\_\_ Church arose.

- III. How can we know which church is the right one?
- A. Only the \_\_\_\_\_ faith established by God’s Son—the promised Messiah, Jesus—tells the greatest truth about God and His salvation.
  - B. God has provided two infallible guidelines by which to identify His people in the last days.
    1. They must teach according “to the \_\_\_\_\_ and to the \_\_\_\_\_” (Scripture); if they do not, “there is no light in them.” **ISAIAH 8:20 (661)**
    2. God’s last-day people will keep the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and have the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. **REVELATION 12:17 (1182)**
      - a. **REVELATION 12** depicts God’s true church (the bride of Christ—**EPHESIANS 5:25 (1127); 2 CORINTHIANS 11:2 (1117)** through the ages to the final remnant.
      - c. **REVELATION 14:12 (1184)** repeats the identifying marks of God’s last-day, remnant people.
  - C. Heaven is for those who not only acknowledge Jesus as Lord, but also \_\_\_\_\_ the will of His Father in heaven. **MATTHEW 7:21-23 (941)**
  - D. Following Jesus in further light does not deny the validity of previous Christian experience.
  - E. You are invited to take the next step with Jesus **PROVERBS 4:18 (607)** and become part of His Church that honors all 10 of His commandments and seeks to have His faith.

*ANSWERS: (1) A: faith; B: brighter; (II) A-1: united; B: universality; B-1-a: new; B-1-b: farther; B-2: security; B-4: immersion; B-6: maturity; B-7-a: judgment; B-7-b: Adventist; (III) A: Christian; B-1: law, testimony; C: do)*