

**WHAT YOU CAN DO****All we are asking is:-**

- 1) Please take note of what Christianity should be like according to the New Testament, so that the Lord Jesus regains the respect due to Him.

Acts 17:11 **These were more noble** than those in Thessalonica, **in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

- 2) If you have not already done so, consider Jesus' claims and become a Christian the Bible way. - There is no other way to become a real Christian.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

- 3) Meet with an independent group of such Christians to worship in the New Testament manner.
- 4) If you cannot find such a group, it only needs two to begin one.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in their midst.

- 5) Use the New Testament as your guide in worship and in life.

If you have vested interests in a denomination you are going to find it difficult. For example if you are a cleric or have relatives or friends who are entrenched in a denomination. You might reason with them but what if they will not listen? Pray for strength to follow the Lord. Don't be like these religious rulers:-

John 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Thank you for completing the studies. If you think we might be able to give you helpful advice, do not hesitate to contact us.

May your study of the Lord's word be a blessing to you.

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**TEST EXERCISE**

Write a letter to your friend advising them what they ought to do quoting appropriate Bible passages.

# Authentic Christianity

STUDY 10

WHAT ABOUT NOW?

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# "Authentic Christianity"

## Study 10

## WHAT ABOUT NOW?

### **CHRISTIANITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT AND WHAT WE SEE NOW**

- NT** The Lord Jesus is building only one church.
- NOW** There are over 30,000 denominations, all started by men.
- NT** Division and false teaching is unacceptable.
- NOW** Every denomination has its reason for being separate.
- NT** The church of the Lord is simple.
- NOW** The denominations are complex.
- NT** The membership of each congregation would choose several supervisors from within their congregation having scriptural qualifications.
- NOW** Churches with one man Pastors, Ministers etc. with ostentatious titles like Reverend etc.. chosen by the hierarchy having man made qualifications.

- NT** Each congregation self governing according to scriptural principles, directly under Christ the only head. No earthly head. No earthly centralisation.
- NOW** Pyramid structures, diocese, synods, affiliations, councils, earthly heads with sub-heads of varying degrees of complexity.
- NT** The teaching of the apostles as revealed in the New Testament.
- NOW** Man made rules of faith, creeds, conditions of membership, canon law etc.
- NT** Local church membership consisted of those who believed in the Lord Jesus, repented and were immersed for the remission of their sins.
- NOW** Membership depends on the various terms laid down by the hierarchies.
- NT** The only rites are immersion of repentant believers and observance of the Lord's supper each first day of the week (the breaking of the loaf).
- NOW** Numerous and varied rites, ceremonies, holy days.
- NT** Reverent worship according to the principles revealed in the New Testament.
- NOW** Numerous and varied ways of worshipping.

However there are independent groups of immersed believers all over the world who are simply Christians. They meet together to remember Jesus each first day of the week. They have no set of dogmas or articles of faith but simply try to follow the principles of the New Testament. Usually they call their congregations simply: churches of Christ (Romans 16:16) [in parts of the far east:- Jama'at Al Masih]. But not all who call themselves churches of Christ are following the New Testament. Some even belong to a centralised hierarchy. Do compare what they teach and practice with the New Testament. That is the ultimate authority.