

Where Did We Come From?

It has been said that what you believe about your origin will determine how you live your life. Life is certainly bearing out this truth. Those who believe they came from worms and monkeys glide easily down the path of mayhem and immorality. But those who believe they were created by a living, loving God become compassionate, caring people who live life to reflect the light and love of Jesus.

That reality also follows in the realm of churches. Some churches came from the teachings of man and other come directly from the teachings of God. If we believe our particular church came from the teachings of man, then we will feel quite free to change it and re-make it our liking any time we want.

But if we believe that our particular church came from God, in the genuine form he delivered it, through the pages of scripture, then we know we must not change His church at all, but instead we recognize we are called to follow the God's word without adding to it or taking from it. (See Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5, 6; Rev. 22:18, 19).

Can the church, as Jesus built it, really be alive and well today? Absolutely. The first century Christians became who they were by simply following the words of the apostles. Those words then became written and eventually bound into what we call our New Testament! In the late 1700s and early 1800s, numerous Bible scholars became quite disenchanted with churches established by men. They went back to the written word, read, studied, thought and applied. They understood the above verses concerning not adding to God's word and not taking from it.

With the written scriptures as their only and final authority, they applied 1 Corinthians 4:6, not to go beyond what is written, and they became the same kind of Christians as the first century Christians – the same way. If we ourselves, love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (Mark 12:30), then we will keep His commandments (John 14:15).

If we know where we came from (created by God, Genesis 1) and we know where His church came from (in the first century and now from the pages of scripture), then we can become what they became, without the admixture of the teachings of man.

Wonderful and marvelous, indeed, are the precious promises that lead us home to the Savior that loves us more that the human mind can even comprehend. He loves you – and so do I.

Ray Wallace