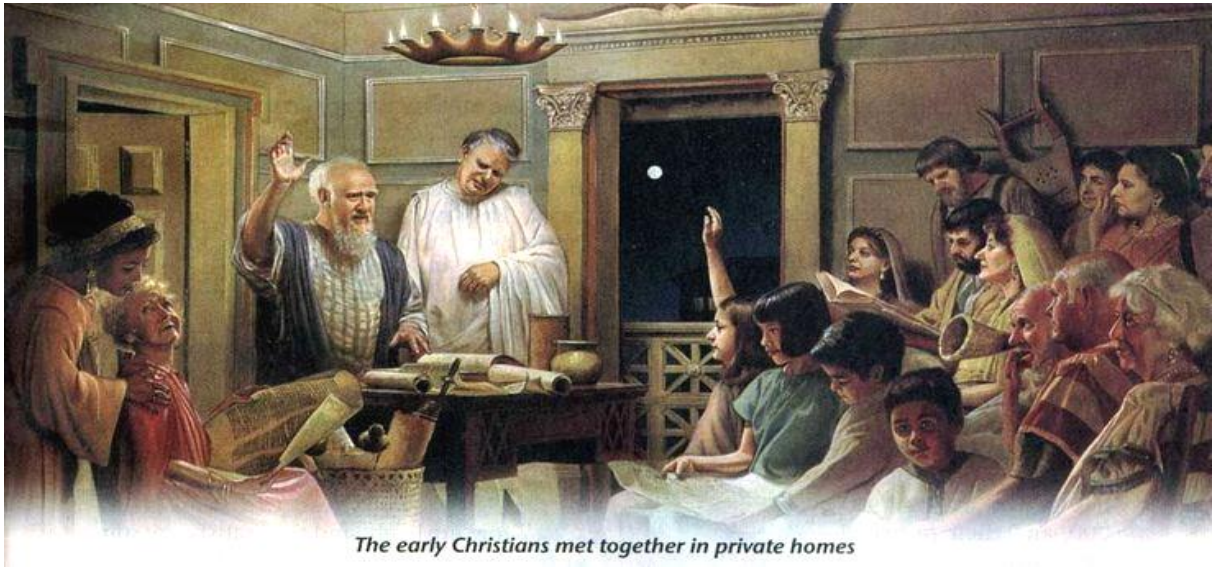


The 'Church of Christ'

Re: BD 6010 28.07.1954



The early Christians met together in private homes

God the Father is speaking: **"The congregation of Jesus Christ is made up by all believers who see in Jesus Christ their Redeemer, who believe in Him as the Son of God, Who descended to earth in order to offer the sacrifice of atonement as a human being for the whole of the human race, and therefore want to follow Him. The 'church of Christ', which He Himself founded on earth, has to be understood to be all profound believers; all, who seriously strive to be active Christians; all, who are not just Christians observing formalities; all, who have a living faith and consciously place themselves under the cross of Christ.** Jesus Christ must be acknowledged by the members of His church, and from this acknowledgment arises their duty to live in accordance with His teaching, thus, to consciously live a life of love, as He Himself exemplified to people and requested with His call 'Come and follow Me.' Anyone who complies with this call and acknowledges Him also belongs to the congregation which is described as the 'church of Christ.' ***This is the invisible church*** which nevertheless can be and indeed is represented in every denomination because there are people everywhere who believe with heartfelt love in Jesus Christ, who are also absorbed by love for their fellow human beings, who can be called true Christians, because they demonstrate by their way of life their affiliation to Him, Who crowned His activity of love with His death on the cross.

Hence this congregation exists wherever true Christians reside, for they all belong in the church of Christ, and wherever two or three such Christians come together in His name He will be in the midst of them, the founder of the church of Christ, and will permeate them with His spirit. Consequently, their thoughts and words will also be right and even more relevant than the word of a preacher who is as yet not a living representative of the divine doctrine of love, whose words are not yet revealing his inner life, the spirit, which is the characteristic of the members of the church of Christ. And this spirit will always express itself by plainly and clearly preaching and interpreting the Word of God, which can also quite naturally take place in the smallest circle as a simple conversation wherever members of the church of Christ are together. ***For nothing of an external nature will confirm this membership except the individual person's spirit of love who strives towards Jesus Christ***

with a living faith in Him as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, in Whose human shell God embodied Himself in order to redeem humanity from sin and death"

The Church of Christ in its Beginnings

BD No. 8375 of 01/08/1963 taken from book 88



My



disciples passed on their teaching ministry

because they recognized the spiritual state of those they appointed as their successors.

Jesus is speaking: "My disciples received the Gospel of love from Me directly when I lived on earth, and thus they were able to carry it into the world in its pure and unadulterated form after I accomplished My act of Salvation and ascended to My kingdom of light again. And they, on their part, also kept My teaching pure and people came to know Me as their Redeemer from sin and death. They were instructed by My disciples that they would have to take the path to the cross and live a life of love in order to be able to fulfill the purpose of their earthly life and to enter My kingdom after their death. My disciples were guided into truth by Me and also passed on the same truth because My spirit was able to work in them. In the beginning, therefore, people accepted My pure Gospel and also made an effort to live a life of love, and thus they, too, became spiritually alive and I was able to work in them Myself. And so My teaching remained pure for a certain period of time, My disciples passed on their teaching ministry because they recognized the spiritual state of those they appointed as their successors.

Yet it did not take long before *people assumed such a teaching ministry by themselves, partly due to selfish reasons, partly due to overzealousness of complying with My will but without waiting for the inner calling.* And so it came to pass that this teaching ministry was eventually conferred indiscriminately, that the inner ability, the human being's spiritual state, was no longer pertinent but that external circumstances played a

part and thus increasingly endangered the pure truth as well which, however, was not noticed precisely because of the teachers' unenlightened spirit. The people, however, to whom the Gospel was preached, were denied the right to form their own opinion and to voice doubts about the absolute truth of what they were taught. Those who deemed themselves spiritual leaders were convinced of their mission and authority and allowed no contradiction whatsoever. And those who were being taught were obliged to accept without scrutiny that everything they were offered was true. It was only possible for the truth to remain pure as long as its guardians were spiritually enlightened themselves. Yet the number of those who were placed into positions of authority without being enlightened by My spirit soon predominated and all objections by a spiritually awakened person were dismissed. The former grew more powerful, and the pure truth became interspersed with error, with ideas which had originated in people's intellect and were endorsed by them as divine truth. And although spiritually enlightened people time and again tried to eliminate this error, My adversary succeeded to assert himself, for his followers' power was already too great and the pure truth was no longer recognized as such.

*This explains to you that in the course of time something entirely different established itself as the 'church of Christ' than what was founded by Me on earth. Only this explains how an organization came into power, why time and again divisions occurred within this organization and why I only ever want the 'church founded by Me' to be regarded as a spiritual edifice that includes those people who live in truth due to a life of love, which results in a living faith and the awakening of the spirit. And this church has indeed kept itself alive to this day, for time and again My spirit could pour itself out over people who made an effort to live a life of love and to fulfill My will. And so the pure truth which exposes all misguided teachings could always be imparted to them again, and every genuinely truth-seeking person will receive an explanation how humankind was able to fall into such confused thinking and is unwilling to free itself from it. **Yet it will also be understandable to everyone that the masses will never be open to the truth but willingly accept error, and thus every individual person should try to free himself from wrong spiritual knowledge as soon as My grace offers him the pure truth, for just his sincere desire will enable him to differentiate between truth and error, and then he will also belong to the church which I founded on earth Myself.***