

## Speaking Truth In Love

The establishment of the church was not a divine after-thought as some teach. The church is not a stop-gap measure used by God before the coming of the Lord's kingdom. The church of Christ and the kingdom of Christ came into being at the same time. The church is the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose (Eph 3:10-11). The church is the body of Christ, which unites all of God's faithful children into one body (Col 1:18; Eph 3:6).

Isaiah spoke of the **church** when he prophesied that "*the mountain of the Lord's house*" would be established in the "*the latter days*" (Isa 2:2).

- That "*mountain*" is God's **kingdom** rule in Jesus Christ.
- The "*Lord's house*" is the church of the living God (Matt 28:18; 1 Tim 3:15).
- The "*latter days*" began when Jesus was first proclaimed to be Lord and Christ (Acts 2; Heb 1:1-2).

Daniel spoke of the **church** when he prophesied of a "*kingdom... which shall never be destroyed*" (Dan 2:44).

- Christians have been "*conveyed*" into this **kingdom** (Col 1:13).
- It is a kingdom that must be willingly "*received*" (Heb 12:28).

Jesus said that His commemorative meal, the Lord's Supper, would be eaten "*in the kingdom of God*" but not "*until the kingdom of God comes*" (Lk 22:15-22). Paul explained the proper observance of "*the Lord's Supper*" to the church at Corinth (1 Cor 11:18-30). Therefore, we must conclude that the Lord's kingdom began when His church was established (Acts 2). The next and final kingdom will be the kingdom of God in heaven (read 1 Cor 15:20-28).

Church of Christ  
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Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Bible classes: Sun. 9:30 a.m. and Wed. 7:00 p.m.