

AND THIS IS THE RECORD

John Isaac Edwards

We keep all kinds of records: financial, medical, sporting events, temperatures, and the list goes on. The Bible contains the greatest record of all as John said, *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son”* (1 Jn. 5:11).

1) **GOD.** The Bible holds God up as being in existence (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 14:1). God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent.

2) **HATH GIVEN.** God is a giving God. God gave us life in the beginning (Gen. 1:26-27), His Son (Jn. 3:16), a book by which to live (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and much, much more.

3) **TO US.** The apostle John is writing to those in Christ. Those in Christ have access to God’s greatest blessings (Eph. 1:3).

4) **ETERNAL LIFE.** Paul penned, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom. 6:23). Eternal life, what a gift!

5) **AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON.** If eternal life is in God’s Son, then we must be in

Christ to have eternal life. Galatians 3:27 teaches that we are *“baptized into Christ.”* We then must *“walk in Christ”* (Col. 2:6-7) and *“abide in”* Christ (Jn. 15:1-7) to have the hope and promise of eternal life (Titus 1:2; 1 Jn. 2:25). Are you in Christ?

IS ONE CHURCH AS GOOD AS ANOTHER?

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Most people have the idea that it makes no difference as to which church they are a member of — that one church is just as good as another. Let’s think about this.

1) **THE LORD PROMISED TO BUILD ONLY ONE CHURCH.** Jesus declared, *“I will build my church”* (Mt. 16:18). Is a church built by man as good as the one built by God’s Son? The Bible says, *“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it”* (Ps. 127:1).

2) **PAUL TAUGHT ONLY ONE CHURCH.** Paul taught, *“There is one body”* (Eph. 4:4), and the body *“is the church”* (Col. 1:24). Would you agree that if there is but one body and the body is the church, that there is just one true church

taught on the pages of the word of God?

3) **CHRIST IS THE SAVIOUR OF ONLY ONE CHURCH.** Paul informed the Ephesians that Christ *“is the saviour of the body”* (Eph. 5:23), and we have already learned that the body is the church. If we want to be saved, it makes a difference as to which church we belong to, for we cannot be saved outside the Lord’s church.

If you contracted a terminal illness of some kind, would one doctor be just as good as another? Would you take just any kind of medicine? If you had to undergo brain surgery, would just any surgeon do, or would you be particular about who performed the procedure? Why is it that some give more thought to saving their life than the salvation of their soul?

IDENTIFYING THE ONE TRUE CHURCH

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There is but one church revealed on the pages of Holy Writ (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:24). With there being so many churches in existence today, how do we go about identifying the true one?

1) **BY ITS NAME.** A name

is a mark of identification. The Lord's church wears the Lord's name, for He built it (Mt. 16:18) and "*purchased it with his own blood*" (Acts 20:28). This is why it's referred to as the church of Christ in Romans 16:16. If a church does not wear the name of Christ, then it must not be His!

2) **BY ITS TEACHING.** The church of the Bible teaches only the Bible. We are warned against adding to or taking away from the word of God (1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Jn. 9; Rev. 22:18-19). Most churches are not content to teach only the Bible, as they have their creeds, confessions and constitutions. If a church teaches less than the Bible, it teaches too little; and if it teaches more than the Bible, it teaches too much to be the one true church!

3) **BY ITS WORSHIP.** The Lord's church worships God (Mt. 4:10), "*in spirit and in truth*" (Jn. 4:24), on "*the first day of the week*" (Acts 20:7), through teaching, giving, observing the Lord's supper, praying and singing (Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19). If you find a church untrue in worship, it must not be

the one true church!

4) **BY ITS ORGANIZATION.** The Bible church is independently organized with Christ as Head (Eph. 1:20-23), elders as overseers (1 Tim. 3:1-7; 1 Pet. 5:1-2), deacons as servants (1 Tim. 3:8-13), and saints as laborers (1 Cor. 15:58). A church that has an organization foreign to the Bible is a foreign church!

5) **BY ITS WORK.** The work of the church is directed by Christ (Eph. 5:23-24; Col. 3:17), and is of a spiritual nature (Jn. 18:36; Rom. 14:17). The work involves preaching the gospel (1 Th. 1:8) and helping needy saints (Acts 6:1-7). If a church doesn't do the Lord's work the Lord's way, then it's not the right church!

It is critical that we identify and become members of the one true church revealed on the pages of the Bible, for the saved are in it (Acts 2:47), Christ will deliver it up to God (1 Cor. 15:24), and all others will be rooted up (Mt. 15:13). We encourage you to investigate us as you search for the one true church.

SIGNS OF THE SECOND COMING

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The way some people talk, you would think there are signs of Christ's second coming on about every page of the Bible. I've listed below all the signs mentioned in the Bible of the second coming.

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