

Elder Bobby Willis



"Church"

There are several good Primitive Baptist Publications which are available for those who enjoy reading the thoughts of their writers. One such is "Glad Tidings", edited by Elder Larry Wise of Randolph, MS. Usually you will find little tidbits of information used as fillers (inserted in those spaces where there is not enough room for a full article). One such little tidbit in the March issue was entitled "Church". I thought it worth reprinting:

When you were born, your mother brought you to church.

When you were married, your wife brought you to church.

When you die, your friends will bring you to church.

Why not try coming to church on your own sometime?

(Source Unknown)

The word "church" is not found in the Old Testament as the temple - tabernacle, did not use that name until Jesus used it in referring to His body of believers which would be built by Christ Himself in Matthew 16:18. The word "church" is used for only the second time in Matthew 18:17 when a matter of discipline was to be brought before the Saints.

Though not mentioned in the Old Testament itself, Stephen refers back to "the church" which was in the wilderness when the angel spake to Moses in mount Sina and of the giving of the "lively oracles" (Acts 7:38). Again, this is referring to those who followed God as "the church". The word "church" is used a total of 111 times in the New Testament, spoken of by Christ, Stephen, Peter, Paul, James, and John.

To say the “church” began on the day of Pentecost is incorrect, as the church “body of believers” began with those who followed Jesus Christ with Him being the example of which we are to adhere. The ordinance of “baptism” into the church was set forth by God and was confirmed by Christ when he told John to baptize Him as recorded in Matthew 3:14, **“But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?”**

Knowing what we are blessed to know of all that Jesus has done for us, should we not then be followers of Christ? Should we not be faithful to that which He has established in attending His “church” out of pure love and respect? May your desire to serve Him ever increase to His praise, honor, and glory. **“Think About It!”**