



Jeff Sweeten

# *Thus Saith the Lord* **THE ORIGINAL CHURCH**

By Jeff Sweeten

The story is told of two sons whose father died, willing the oldest boy his rifle. The rifle was old and in need of repair. The trigger was tarnished, so he replaced it, throwing the old trigger in a box. The stock was dinged and faded and he found a new stock to replace it, throwing the old stock in the same box that eventually began to increase with old discarded parts from his father's rifle. Years passed and the younger son asked his brother if he minded him taking the box of parts for himself, to which his elder brother agreed. When the younger son began to reassemble all the old parts in the box, to his surprise, he had every part of the old rifle. Question: who had his father's rifle?

This simple story effectively illustrates how one can identify the church that Christ said He would build (Matthew 16:18). If one simply goes back to the Bible and does nothing more than what one finds in the Bible concerning the establishment, worship, service and unity of the original New Testament church, one can identify the church of Christ today as readily as one can pick out their car in the Walmart parking lot. It is really that simple.

Galatian churches of Christ were in danger of losing their identity as false doctrine crept in (Galatians 5:4). The church of Christ in Corinth was conducting worship services that were horrendously warped (1 Corinthians 11:17-16:4), and Paul also warned them to correct their errors in Christian living (1 Corinthians 5:5). Jesus even threatened the church of Christ at Ephesus to "remove (her) lampstand," a figurative term for rejecting a church in apostasy (Revelation 2:5). Because perversions or innovations disqualify a religious body from being the Lord's church, it does not follow that there exists no authentic, original church of Christ today.

I might add, just because some man preaches that we should go back to the Bible for all we say and do does not mean that man is the founder of any church. The failure of that assertion is easily understood from the following simple illustration. If a red-headed woodpecker picks up a seed in Dearborn, Michigan, and flies to Hamilton, Texas, and drops the seed, and it germinates and grows, does it produce red-headed woodpeckers? Well, no. It produces whatever plant is associated with that seed (Genesis 1:11-12). Hence, when one plants the Seed (the Word of God, Luke 8:11), it does not produce man-made, human-originated religions, such as denominations, The Hamilton Herald News – 11/03/2022 pagan sects or cults. What planting the Word of God produces is the church of which we read in the Bible, and the human who plants the seed is not worthy of any glory (2 Corinthians 4:7, 13- 14).

Therefore, if you wish to find the church that Christ built, the history of it is readily attainable from its recorded existence in the New Testament. And, this body still exists today, as I am a member of one called the Park Heights church of Christ in Hamilton, Texas. I invite you to visit sometime and discover the church of the New Testament.

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you  
have a question or comment  
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