

# Is Jesus Christ the Founder of Your Church?

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it,” (Psalm 127:1)*

**I**f one desired to purchase a new vehicle from the company founded by Henry Ford, he or she would necessarily need to buy it from the Ford Motor Company. It would be impossible to buy an auto from General Motors, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, or any other maker and fulfill the desire to buy from the company that Ford built—Mr. Ford created only one automobile company and that organization bears his name to this day.

**S**o it is with the Lord's church. If we wish to be a member of the church that Jesus Christ founded, it will be impossible to belong to a church that has any other founder. And while we may choose to purchase a Ford product, or any other manufacturer's vehicle based on our individual needs, desires and financial resources, God has not given us such freedom in choosing a church. In fact, we will make no more important decision in this life than whether we choose to obey Jesus and be added to His church. Why? Because Jesus has promised to save only His church, and no other. Jesus told His disciples in no uncertain terms that He would build His church and those in it would be saved eternally. “On this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it,” (Matthew 16:18). “Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body,” (Ephesians 5:23). Since the church built by Christ and only the church built by Christ will be saved, membership in any church with a human founder will mean the loss of one's soul. Christ has not promised to save anyone outside of the church that He founded.

**N**ot only is Jesus the founder of His church, he “purchased [it] with His own blood,” (Acts 20:28). Those in the church that Jesus founded, built and purchased, are “bought at a price,” and therefore they are commanded to glorify God in their bodies and spirits, which belong to God (I Corinthians 6:20).

**T**ragically, far too many in the world have been deceived into believing that the individual who founded their church—that is, the church of which they are members—is of no consequence so long as they love God and worship Him. However, “He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him,” (I John 2:4-5).

**A**nother aspect of identifying the Lord's church is the date of its founding. Mr. Ford created his car company in 1903; can any car company that began in another year be the same company as the one started by Mr. Ford? Of course, the answer is “no,” it would be a different company. Jesus Christ founded His church almost 2,000 years ago on the Day of Pente-

cost following His ascension back to Heaven. Nearly all denominational churches that exist today are less than 500 years old, and date to the time of the Reformation Movement or thereafter. Can these churches, which were founded by men and originated many hundreds of years after the Lord's ascension, be the Lord's church? They cannot.

**M**r. Ford founded his company in the city of Detroit, Michigan. Any car company that did not have its origin in the city of Detroit cannot in fact be the Ford Motor Company begun by Henry Ford. Hundreds of years before Jesus founded His church in the city of Jerusalem, it was prophesied that it would begin there. “And it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains... for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem,” (Isaiah 2:2-3). This prophesy, and others like it in Joel chapter 2, came to pass as recorded in Acts chapters 1-2; the disciples were all together in the city of Jerusalem, because Jesus had told them to “tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” The apostles were miraculously filled with the Holy Spirit on that

particular day of Pentecost, and the apostle Peter preached the first Christian sermon, as the Lord began adding the first souls to His church (Acts 2:47). Where was your church founded? Was the origin of its founding the fulfillment of Divine prophecy? If it was not founded in the city of Jerusalem, it cannot be the Lord's church, no matter how old it is, or how many members it may have, or how many good works it may do.

**F**riends, we urge you to study the Scriptures for yourself, like the Bereans did (ref. Acts 17:11) to see whether the things that are stated as facts in this article are so. We would be honored to help you in that study by answering any questions that you may have and/or pointing you to additional references and sources of information. Your precious soul's future beyond this life depends on your understanding of the Lord's church and knowing how you may be added to it. May God bless your study.

**Sponsored by the Purcellville Church of Christ, 604 Yaxley Drive, Purcellville, VA**  
[www.purcellvillecoc.org](http://www.purcellvillecoc.org). Email us at [ContactPCOC@gmail.com](mailto:ContactPCOC@gmail.com).  
Visit us on Facebook.