

THE

# WITNESS OF TRUTH.

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## THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AS CONSTITUTED BY CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES.

It is well known, that there are different views held in respect to the formation and design of Christian Churches by those professing to be the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. On this very important subject, the New Testament must be the guide of every Christian.—There is no need of wading through ecclesiastical history, in order to obtain a correct view of a scriptural church. Neither is it necessary to unite judaism with the gospel to constitute the Christian system. In the formation of Christian churches, at the present day, if the New Testament were taken as the guide, instead of creeds, confessions, and articles, of faith, there would not be found such corrupted societies as we now see professing to be Christian churches.

By the light of God's word let us examine what is a Christian church. The Greek word, translated "church," simply means an "assembly;" this is the meaning of it in the following passages of the scripture, Acts xix. 32, 39, 41.

After the Saviour of mankind rose from the tomb, he remained forty days with his apostles, "speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God." Before he ascended to heaven he delivered fully to these his commission, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," Matt. xxviii 19, 20.

The proceedings of the inspired servants of Christ provide the clearest explanation of the commission, which can be furnished.

The apostles traveled every where preaching "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." This was the first subject of their preaching, commanding every person to repent, that is