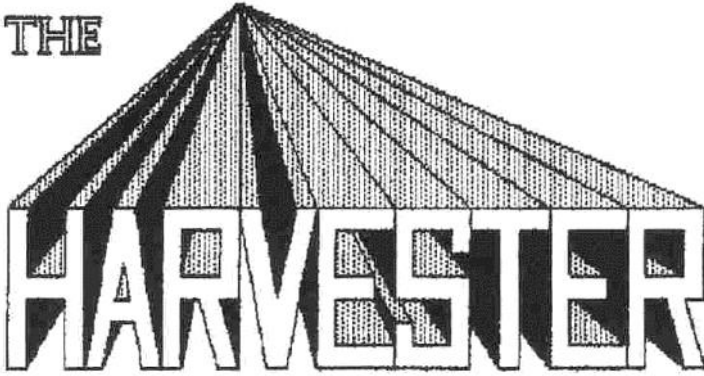


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

March 2015

No. 351

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Multiple times, the scriptures describe the church as a body.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

The universal church of Christ is just one body throughout the whole world; we are

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from multiple congregations, multiple races, multiple countries, multiple languages, but we are still just one body of Jesus Christ. There is also just one Holy Spirit within each of us, one hope of eternal life, one Lord Jesus Christ, one baptism for the forgiveness of our sins, and one God and Father who has created everything, is over everything, and even within each of us.

Ephesians 4:11 *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;"* Apostles were individuals like Peter and Paul who were selected by Jesus and sent to proclaim the gospel to the world. Prophets are those individuals who proclaim the divine message of God, whether that be to proclaim the message that has already been revealed or to foretell the purposes of God in the future. Evangelists are preachers of the gospel, especially to those who do not know the gospel. Pastors are the shepherds of local congregations who watch over the flock of believers; they are also called elders or overseers. Teachers are individuals who teach the word of God.

Each of these individuals has been given by God for a reason. *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"* (Eph. 4:12). The first purpose is to provide each saint (Christian) with what he/she needs to perform works of ministry or service. Each of us is a minister or servant to those around us, just as Jesus came to serve. *"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to*

give his life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). The second purpose is to edify or build up the body of Christ, the church. Many things such as apathy, divisions and sinfulness can tear down the church; the job for each of us, instead, is to do what we can to make the church larger and stronger.

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
(Eph. 4:13-16)

The goal is that all of us in the church may become one in our faith, that we may have full knowledge of Jesus, that we become mature, seasoned children of God who are solid in our faith and not shaken by false doctrines or false teachers.

Those of us who are pastors, evangelists or teachers have a great responsibility to equip the brethren for the work of service

and to edify the body of Christ. But each one of us needs to work for unity and strengthening of the church and provide service to our fellow believer.

EDWARD ANDERSON
Sierra Vista, AZ

APOLOGIA

QUESTION: Why was Paul qualified to be an apostle?

ANSWER: The other apostles met the qualifications noted by Peter in Acts 1:21-22:

1. *"Companied with us...beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that He was taken up."*

2. *"Witness with us of His resurrection."*

Paul speaks of his assurance of being an apostle.

1. *"Called to be an apostle"* (Rom. 1:1, 1 Cor. 1:1).

2. *"Am I not an apostle?"* (1 Cor. 9:1).

3. *"Yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord"* (1 Cor. 9:2).

4. Visitation and conversion by Jesus (Acts 9:3-16): *"He [Jesus] was seen of me also"* (1 Cor. 15:8a).

5. The Lord said to Ananias, *"He is a chosen vessel unto Me"* (Acts 9:15).

6. *"One born out of due time"* (1 Cor. 15:8b).

7. *"Signs of an apostle were wrought among*

you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds" (2 Cor. 12:12).

8. Paul laid hands on others to impart spiritual gifts, an ability possessed only by apostles (Acts 8:14-17, Acts 19:6).

There is no record of Paul being baptized with the Holy Spirit as were the other apostles. But that was not necessary! Holy Spirit baptism occurred only twice: First in Acts 2 to the apostles who were Jews. This fulfilled Joel 2:28-29 (Isaiah 2:2-3 and Micah 4:1-2) who predicted the outpouring of God's Spirit upon *"all flesh."* This was the Jewish portion of *"all flesh."* Second in Acts 10 upon Cornelius and those gathered. This was the Gentile portion of *"all flesh."* Romans 1:16, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek [Gentile]."*

Baptism with the Holy Spirit was not intended to make apostles. If it did, then Cornelius and his household were apostles. Holy Spirit baptism was intended to open the door of the Lord's kingdom first to the Jew and then to the Gentile, thus encompassing *"all peoples."*

Other than Paul (Acts 9), Matthias (Acts 1), and Thomas (John 20:24) the apostleship was bestowed upon the ten at the incident recorded in John 20:22-23,

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you

withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.

The ability of inspiration had been earlier granted to Peter in Matthew 16:16-19 and to the remaining disciples who become apostles in Matthew 18:18).

During the forty days following Jesus' resurrection, the twelve were rehearsed and taught further by Jesus' presence among them. They had not fully understood: "*Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*" (Acts 1:6). Jesus replied, "*It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His Own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...*" (Verses 7-8). The apostles became fully aware of their mission and began to serve as such as recorded in Acts 2.

HARRY COBB

August 2014

February 1, 2015: As this issue was being compiled, news was received that a humble servant of Christ, Brother Harry Cobb, passed away. This was one of the last articles he submitted to us. Brother Harry always encouraged and supported *The Harvester* in word and deed. His Bible knowledge,

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wisdom, kindness, and benevolence will be greatly missed.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. From which land did Isaac tell Jacob not to take a wife?
2. Peacocks were imported by which king of Israel?
3. What was the fate of the man who had no wedding robe at the parable of the marriage feast?
4. What was the color of the robe placed on Jesus by the soldiers?
5. When Paul was shipwrecked on Malta, how many people on the ship drowned?

...and remember last month's questions?

1. What natural disaster happened when Abram and Sarai arrived in the land of Canaan?
A FAMINE (Genesis 12:10)
2. Why did Solomon turn away from God when he was old? HIS FOREIGN WIVES TURNED HIS HEART AFTER OTHER GODS (1 Kings 11:4)
3. What killed the plant that God had provided Jonah for shade? A WORM (Jonah 4:7)
4. Who asked Jesus to remember him when he came into His kingdom? THE CRIMINAL ON THE CROSS (Luke 23:42)
5. From which city was Paul's letter to Philemon written? ROME, WHILE UNDER HOUSE ARREST (Philemon 1:23)

Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
March 6 - 8	New Bethel Cullman, AL	Joe Hill Hager Hill, KY
March 20 - 22	Owens Road Prattville, AL	Joe Hill Hager Hill, KY
March 20 - 22	Hokes Bluff Hokes Bluff, AL	Bill Prince, Jr., Chad Prince, Brad Prince
March 20 - 22	Napoleon Woodland, AL	David Burnham Ragland, AL
March 29 - April 1	Gilstrap Morgantown, KY	Joe Hill Hager Hill, KY

What Will I Leave Behind

By Sherrill Brown

After I leave for worlds unknown
 Over the border line
 Never again on earth to know
 What will I leave behind?
 Leave behind, oh, leave behind
 What will I leave behind?
 After I leave for worlds unknown
 What will I leave behind?
 Will I be missed by those I love
 Or have I been unkind?
 And have I been true to God above
 What will I leave behind?
 Leave behind, oh, leave behind
 What will I leave behind?
 After I leave for worlds unknown
 What will I leave behind?