

# Do We Need Organized Religion?



Discovering God's Word  
Bible Study Series

# Do We Need Organized Religion?

Learn that God has created organized religion and why you should be part of it

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## Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW184

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**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# Do We Need Organized Religion?

There are many people today who question the legitimacy of and need for organized religion. There are many objections that are made to the current state of organized religion. However, not all of these people are uninterested in serving and worshiping God. Some of them simply see no need for their worship and service to be connected with any kind of organized system of religion. Instead, they view their service and worship to God solely as an individual matter.

So, as we consider the question, “Do we need organized religion?,” let’s begin by defining the terms that are involved in the question. By “religion,” I am referring to the service and worship of God or of the supernatural. By “organized religion,” then, I am referring to an institutionalized system of religious practices.

Now, certainly no one can rightfully question whether organized religion exists. For, just within what is called “Christianity,” there are tens of thousands of different kinds of churches that represent “organized religion.” So, our study hinges on the word “need.” That is, has God made organized religion essential to salvation?

Then, as we set out to answer this question, we must recognize that only the truth contained in the pages of the Bible can give us the right answer. Jesus

said, “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Our opinions are simply not sufficient in saving our souls. It is only the gospel of Jesus Christ that is God’s power to salvation (Romans 1:16). And, it is the words of God contained in the Bible that will be our criteria for judgment one day (see John 12:48 and Revelation 20:11-15).

Therefore, let’s give close attention to some things God has told us pertaining to this question about organized religion. As we do, consider Isaiah 55:8-9: “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.’” God’s answer should suffice us all on this question (and all questions)!

## Answering Some Common Objections

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Before we consider how God answers the question, I want to give consideration to some common objections that people share regarding the question. Perhaps you have one or more of these objections on your mind today. Consider just a few common objections and a brief response to each.

### ***“I can worship God anywhere”***

Many people do not see the need for organized religion because they believe they can worship God anywhere. So, they often conclude that they do not need to take themselves or their families to the assemblies of a church to worship. Instead, they can just worship God in the comfort and convenience of their own homes, under a tree in the middle of a field, or wherever they may be at a given moment.

First, let me say that the statement, “I can worship God anywhere” is true. For instance, whenever Jesus was responding to a Samaritan woman about the place people ought to worship, He said, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem,

worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:21-24).

However, the fact that we can worship and serve God anywhere does not address whether God has given us the responsibility to be part of organized religion. For, just because God gives us the opportunity to worship Him as often as we desire to do so does *not* mean that we should not also assemble with a church to worship Him. So, we must not draw a conclusion that is too hasty just because we can worship God anywhere.

### ***“Church is full of hypocrites”***

Some people look at the churches they are familiar with, consider the people who are part of those churches, and conclude that churches are full of hypocrites. So, when they see people going to church on Sundays and then acting in sinful and worldly ways through the week, they see no need to be part of a church. They may conclude that they can be just as sinful without going to church or that they want no part of a church that tolerates such hypocrisy.

First, let me acknowledge that there are many hypocrites in churches today. Although God is the final Judge of such people, it is far too common to see people who go to church act and talk in ways that are not pleasing to God whenever they are not in church. And, it is also true that God condemns such hypocrisy repeatedly in the Bible. For instance, Jesus said, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also” (Matthew 23:25-26).

However, the fact that there are hypocrites who go to church does not prove that God is against organized religion. It only proves that He does not want you to be like the hypocrites! In fact, don’t you think there are also hypocrites who call themselves

“Christians” and are not part of organized religion? Yet, that does not prove that we should not be Christians. So, we must not rashly conclude that God does not want us to be part of organized religion based on the presence of hypocrites.

### ***“No church can save me”***

Some who object to being part of organized religion do so because they believe no church can save them. They say “yes” to Christ, but “no” to the concept of church. So, as they consider whether organized religion is essential to salvation, they have answered the question with a resounding “no” because they recognize that Jesus is the only Savior. Therefore, they reason that since Jesus is the Savior, they have no need for anything or anyone else.

First, let me whole-heartedly agree that Jesus Christ is the only Savior. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). Then, speaking of Jesus, Peter said, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). So, it is undeniably true that Jesus Christ is the only one who can save our souls and lead us to the Father in Heaven.

However, the fact that Jesus is the Savior does not, of itself, negate the need for organized religion. For, the only way to be saved by Jesus Christ is to fully believe in Him and do what He says. Jesus even asked some people, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). Therefore, if Jesus requires people to be part of organized religion, you must do so – if you want Him to save you. For, Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus “became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”

### ***“No religious organization is completely accurate”***

Sometimes people get lost in all the religious confusion that exists in this world. As I mentioned earlier, there are tens of thousands of different organized churches that all profess to follow Jesus Christ. Yet, they all believe, teach, and practice different things. Perhaps you have even given

organized religion a chance and attended some of the assemblies of various churches. But, perhaps you have not found them to believe, teach, and practice what the Bible says. So, perhaps you have given up on organized religion because you cannot accept the confusion and error that is commonly taught and practiced.

First, let me join with you in lamenting the current condition of organized religion. There is far too much division and confusion among those who profess to follow Jesus Christ. For, 1 Corinthians 14:33 says that “God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.” God is simply not the one who has created all of these different churches and there has been a large impact made by false teaching. And, you are right to *not* be part of any church that does not believe, teach, and practice exactly what the Bible says. For, Jesus said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch” (Matthew 15:13-14).

However, just because the vast majority of churches are not what God wants them to be does *not* mean that there is not *one* church He wants you to be part of. Although it is often difficult to sift through all of the confusion and false teaching that exists among churches today, God’s word will perfectly guide you in a search for the church you can read about in the Bible. So, do not neglect every church just because the vast majority of churches are not what they should be.

### ***“I don’t need a church to tell me what the Bible says”***

Some people have the idea that the only reason they would need to be part of a church is so that they can be told what the Bible says. For, there are some people in some churches who claim that ordinary people cannot understand the Bible on their own. So, whenever they discover that they can understand the Bible without a church telling them what it says, they conclude that they no longer need organized religion and set out just to study the Bible on their own.

First, let me again agree with the premise that we do not need a church to tell us what the Bible says. In fact, everything about the Bible indicates that it was written in a way so that it could be understood by anyone who reads it. For instance, when the apostle Paul made reference to his writings, he said, “when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ” (Ephesians 3:4). Later, he said, “do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17). So, God has given us the ability to understand His word whenever we diligently study it.

However, just because you can understand the Bible without a church does not mean that you do not need organized religion. The fact of the matter is that organized religion exists for more purposes than just to tell the people who assemble what the Bible says. So, you must diligently weigh out all that the Bible says about organized religion before making a final decision!

## **God Has Created Organized Religion**

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As we consider whether we have a need for organized religion, we must consider the origin of it. Remember, Jesus said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted” (Matthew 15:13). So, if its origin is mankind, then we have no need to be part of it. But, if God is its Creator, then we should seriously consider what He says about it.

### ***God created the “universal” church***

The Bible teaches that God has established a church. Listen to Matthew 16:18-19. Jesus said, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Jesus directly stated that He would build His church. And, this church (or, kingdom) was

established in Acts chapter 2. All the references in the Bible to this church before this time are in the future tense (i.e. that it would be established). However, all the references to this church after this time are in the present tense (i.e. that it already exists). Acts 2:47 even says, “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

This church can be called the “universal” church because it is composed of every person who is in a saved condition. Therefore, there is only one “universal” church God has created. But, it is essential to recognize that God is the one who has created this “universal” church.

Now, recognize that this “universal” church is “organized religion.” For, God has told this church exactly what it must believe, teach, and practice through the pages of the Bible. Furthermore, this church does have an organizational structure – albeit a very simple one. The organizational structure of this “universal” church consists of a Head and a body. Colossians 1:18 says, “And He [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church, which is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” So, Jesus is the Head of this church and the church is His body.

### ***God created the “local” church***

Then, it is also important to recognize that “local” churches exist with God’s approval. Throughout the pages of the New Testament (beginning in the book of Acts), “local” churches are seen to be in existence. And, as God’s word touches on them many, many times, never once does God express disapproval for the existence of “local” churches.

Although there were “local” churches that were guilty of doing things that they should not have been doing or failing to do things they should have been doing and were rebuked for such, the arrangement of “local” churches was still not condemned in any way. More than that, “local” churches are clearly seen to be part of God’s pattern revealed in the Scriptures – indicating that they exist because of God’s perfect design.

For instance, there was a “church which was at Jerusalem” (Acts 8:1). There were “churches

throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria” (Acts 9:31). There were people who were part of the “church of God which is at Corinth” (1 Corinthians 1:2). Paul told the Romans that the “churches of Christ greet you” (Romans 16:16). And, there are many, many similar examples in Scripture. But, it is important to recognize that these are not different denominational groups. Instead, these are simply groups of Christians who are part of the “universal” church.

Now, recognize that the “local” church is “organized religion.” For, God has revealed His perfect pattern concerning how the “local” church must function (such as the way the “local” church is to worship God and the work it is to accomplish). Furthermore, God has specified an organizational structure for this “local” church. For instance, Philippians 1:1 says, “Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.” So, God wants there to be bishops (also called “pastors” and “elders”) and deacons in every “local” church, in addition to all the saints (Christians).

### ***God has not created all organized religion***

God has clearly created organized religion. But, it is important to recognize that He has *not* created all systems of organized religion. The organized religion God has created is clearly outlined in the pages of God’s word. Yet, there are many systems of organized religion that have never originated with God and cannot be found in the pages of the Bible.

Let’s revisit the fact that there are tens of thousands of different religious organizations in this world that all believe, teach, and practice different things. For instance, as you drive through the nearest town, you will likely pass the buildings of several different kinds of churches. Some of them are denominational churches like the Baptist Church, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, etc. Some of them are non-denominational churches that are not part of any larger church structure.

Regardless, it is essential for you to recognize that not all churches have been created equal! God’s

word perfectly guides people into being part of the one “universal” church He has established and being part of a local church He approves. Failing to follow His word has led to the existence of the religious confusion and error involved in all the man-made churches.

God has only created “one faith” (Ephesians 4:5) and has warned against following any other gospel than the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul said, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8). 2 John 1:9-11 says, “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.” So, we cannot choose to be part of any church that has not originated by God’s design and that does not follow His perfect pattern! For, Ephesians 5:11 commands, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

## Reasons To Be Part Of Christ’s “Universal” Church

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It is important for you to recognize that God has created organized religion. But, we still must search for an answer to whether it is essential to salvation to be part of that organized religion. So, consider a couple reasons the Bible gives for why we **must** be part of Christ’s “universal” church.

### ***The saved are in Christ’s church***

Understanding why you need to be part of Christ’s “universal” church requires that you understand what this “universal” church is. Again, consider Acts 2:47. It says that “the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” So, we already should recognize that the saved are in Christ’s church. But, to fully appreciate this, let’s consider the context of this statement.

In Acts chapter 2, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and they began preaching the gospel in Jerusalem to those who had gathered for the Day of Pentecost. When some people were questioning what was happening, Peter answered that it was the fulfillment of Joel’s prophesy, saying that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. As Peter continued preaching, he taught the people that Jesus Christ (the one they had just crucified a short time prior) has risen from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and is now sitting at the right hand of God.

When the people heard that God had made the one they had crucified both Lord and Christ, some were cut to the heart and asked “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). Peter responded by saying, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). As he continued to teach and warn them to be saved, about 3,000 people gladly accepted his word and were baptized (Acts 2:41). These who were now saved were added to the church. Then, the Lord continued to add those who were being saved to the church every day (Acts 2:47).

So, those who obey what God requires them to do to be saved are added to the church and counted among the saved. But, those who do not obey God’s plan of salvation are not added to the church. Therefore, it is God who adds people to the “universal” church whenever they are obedient to His commandments for salvation. And, if you are not part of this “universal” church, you are not counted among the saved. It is at the point of baptism that you are added to this church and come into Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says, “For by one Spirit” [by obeying what the Spirit has commanded in the pages of the Bible] “we were all baptized into one body” (which is the church, see Colossians 1:18) “—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

### ***Christ only built one church***

Next, you need to be part of this one “universal” church because Christ only built one church. As we have already seen, Jesus promised, “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18). Jesus

simply never established any more than **one** “universal” church. He is not the Head of many *churches*, but only of one *church*! So, if you want to be saved, it is essential for you to be part of His one church!

Listen to what Paul told some elders in Acts 20:28. “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” So, although there are many local churches (which we will talk about next), there is only one “universal” church that God (Christ) has “purchased with His own blood.” He simply has not purchased any other church with His blood.

Therefore, if you want to be counted among the saved, you *must* be part of the church He has purchased. The apostle Paul said that there is “one body” (Ephesians 4:4). No more and no less. And, since the body is the church (see Colossians 1:18 and Ephesians 1:22-23), the fact that there is only one body means there is only one church!

## Reasons To Be Part Of A “Local” Church

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Now, maybe you recognize the need to be part of the “universal” church that belongs to Jesus Christ. But, perhaps you question the need to be part of a “local” church and attend the assemblies of a local church. So, let’s consider some reasons the Scriptures give indicating that you should be part of a “local” church.

### ***The approved example in the New Testament***

Throughout the New Testament (beginning in the book of Acts), the constant example is Christians who join themselves to local churches. First, let me state something very plainly: You do not have to join a local church before you can enter a saved condition. God simply never demands it. As an example, consider the man of Ethiopia in Acts 8.

Philip preached to this man while he was traveling in a chariot. Whenever he had been taught the gospel and was convinced of his need to be baptized, he expressed his desire to be baptized (verses 36-37). Verses 38 and 39 then say, “So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.”

Notice that this man went on his way rejoicing because he was saved – even though he had not yet joined himself to a local church. So, the question then becomes, “Does God expect those who become Christians to join local churches after they are saved?” The Scriptures appear to answer that question as “yes.” Certainly, it is what He desires – though it may not always be possible.

Again, the consistent example God shows us in the New Testament is for individuals who become Christians to join themselves to local churches. I do not know of a single example in the Scriptures that show a person becoming a Christian, *choosing* not to join a local church, and being acceptable to God. But, I know of many approved examples showing Christians joining themselves to local churches.

The most notable example is Saul (later known as Paul). Acts 9:26-28 shows Saul joining himself to the local church in Jerusalem. “And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.”

In addition to this, you should recognize that every time you read about a local church in the New Testament, the inference is that Christians joined themselves together in this way. So, whenever you read about the church in Jerusalem, you must conclude that people did the same thing as Saul and expressed their desire to join the church. So it is with the churches in Corinth, Galatia, Thessalonica,



Colossae, Antioch, etc., etc., etc. Therefore, you can be certain that you are doing right whenever you join yourself to a local church that believes, teaches, and practices what the Bible teaches.

### ***To worship with other Christians***

One of the things that local churches are taught by God to do is to assemble as a church for worship. The “universal” church has no collective earthly assemblies. But, the “local” church does. For instance, 1 Corinthians 14:23 speaks of when “the whole church comes together in one place.” Yet, if God did not want people to join local churches, *this could never happen!*

When the local church assembles, God has specified the following five things as the activities of worship it is authorized to engage in: Singing (Colossians 3:16), praying (1 Corinthians 14:15), Bible teaching (Acts 20:7), taking up the collection (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), and partaking of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7). Yet, if God did not want people to join local churches, how would people worship in the collective way these passages indicate?

You see, while Christians can and should worship God individually (as seen in John 4:21-24), God still wants Christians to worship Him together within the assemblies of local churches whenever they are able to do so. In fact, God knows that these collective worship assemblies will also serve as an encouragement to those who are worshipping – and they will realize that they are not alone in serving and worshipping God. Then, you should also consider that the only time God has authorized the collection (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) and the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34) relates to the assemblies of local churches. So, how can you fulfill these responsibilities whenever you are not part of a local church?

Furthermore, listen to Hebrews 10:24-25. “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” Now, ask yourself, “How can I keep this commandment not to forsake/neglect assembling with my brothers and sisters in Christ if I

habitually stay away from all organized religion?” The fact is that you cannot.

### ***To work with other Christians***

Although God has given every Christian personal responsibilities in serving God and accomplishing His work, He has also given some specific work to the local church. The first of the three-fold work God has given local churches is the work of evangelism (or, teaching the lost). For instance, 1 Thessalonians 1:8 says, “For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.” While Christians must work to preach the gospel individually, this was being written to “the church of the Thessalonians” (1 Thessalonians 1:1). Local churches can accomplish much more in teaching the gospel of Christ together than an individual may be able to accomplish separately. But, if God did not want Christians to be part of local churches, how could this work be done by local churches?

The second work God has given to local churches is the work of edification (or, building up the saved). God’s design of the local church is “for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). So, local churches must be focused on helping those who are Christians become stronger in the faith. This is accomplished whenever local churches teach the word of God and worship God together. For instance, Paul told the local church at Corinth regarding their assemblies that “all things” were to be “done for edification” (1 Corinthians 14:26). But, if God did not want Christians to be part of local churches, how could this work be done by local churches?

The third work God has given local churches to do is to show benevolent help toward needy Christians. For instance, Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem” (1 Corinthians 16:1-3). But, if God did

not want Christians to be part of local churches, how could this work be done by local churches?

### ***To share in accountability and encouragement with other Christians***

As a final point of consideration, you should recognize that God wants you to be part of a local church in order to share in accountability with other Christians. God knows that it is difficult for anyone to live for Him in the midst of a sin-filled world (see Matthew 7:13-14). So, He has given Christians a base of fellowship and strength that is greater than the individual. This is the local church.

Consider, for instance, Hebrews 3:12-13. “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” So, God does not want Christians living isolated lives from other Christians. Instead, His plan (as we have seen) is for Christians to join themselves to other Christians in their areas. These individuals will have the opportunity to help and encourage “one another” to serve the Lord faithfully.

In fact, there are many “one another” responsibilities God has given to Christians. And, while they are not limited to brothers and sisters in Christ in the local church, the local church is one of the best places for these responsibilities to be fulfilled. For instance, in addition to exhorting one another every day, Christians are told to greet “one another with a holy kiss” (Romans 16:16), “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2), “comfort each other and edify one another” (1 Thessalonians 5:11), “consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24), “have fervent love for one another” (1 Peter 4:8), be “hospitable to one another without grumbling” (1 Peter 4:9), and several others. But, how will you fulfill these responsibilities effectively if you are not part of a local church?

Then, you should also consider that the local church is intended to provide accountability for Christians. If you are not part of a local church, there may not be anyone around you who will help you

return to the Lord if you sin against Him. But, members of a local church are expected to fulfill that work – and will be in a position to fulfill that work. For instance, Galatians 6:1 says, “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” And, James 5:19-20 says, “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.” In addition, God desires for there to be elders (overseers) who will help shepherd you so that you will faithfully serve God!

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## **Conclusion**

We need organized religion! Organized religion is ***not*** an invention of man (although man has often perverted it). Instead, God has built His one “universal” church that you must be part of and desires for you to be part of a “local” church that follows His perfect pattern.

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## **Study Questions**

What is “organized religion”?

### **1. Answering Some Common Objections**

Can you worship God anywhere? Does this mean you do not need organized religion?

Is the church full of hypocrites? Does this mean you do not need organized religion?

Can a church save you? Does this mean you do not need organized religion?

How is being part of a local church the approved example in the New Testament?

Are there errors in many religious organizations? Does this mean you do not need organized religion?

How is being part of a local church important in worshipping God?

Do you need a church to tell you what the Bible says? Does this mean you do not need organized religion?

How is being part of a local church important in accomplishing God's work?

## **2. God Has Created Organized Religion**

Did God create the "universal" church? Is this "organized religion"?

How is being part of a local church important in sharing in accountability and encouragement?

Did God create the "local" church? Is this "organized religion"?

Has God created all organized religion?

## **3. Reasons To Be Part Of Christ's "Universal" Church**

Who is part of Christ's church?

How many churches did Jesus build?

## **4. Reasons To Be Part Of A "Local" Church**