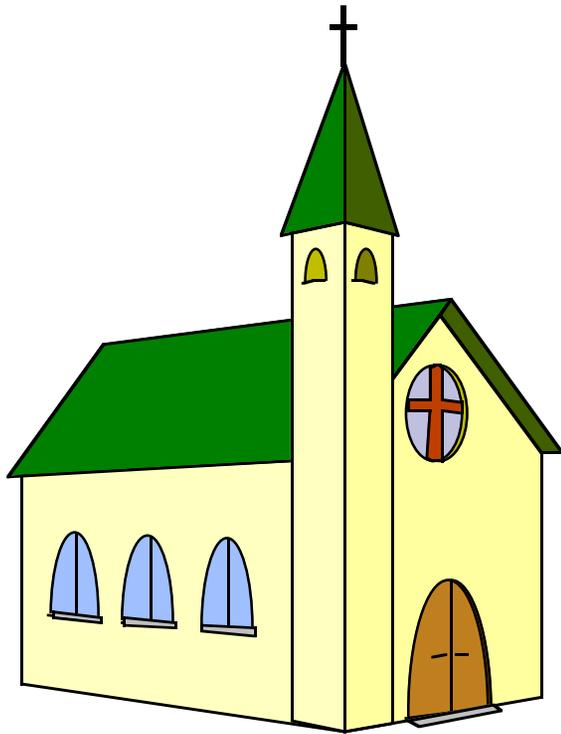
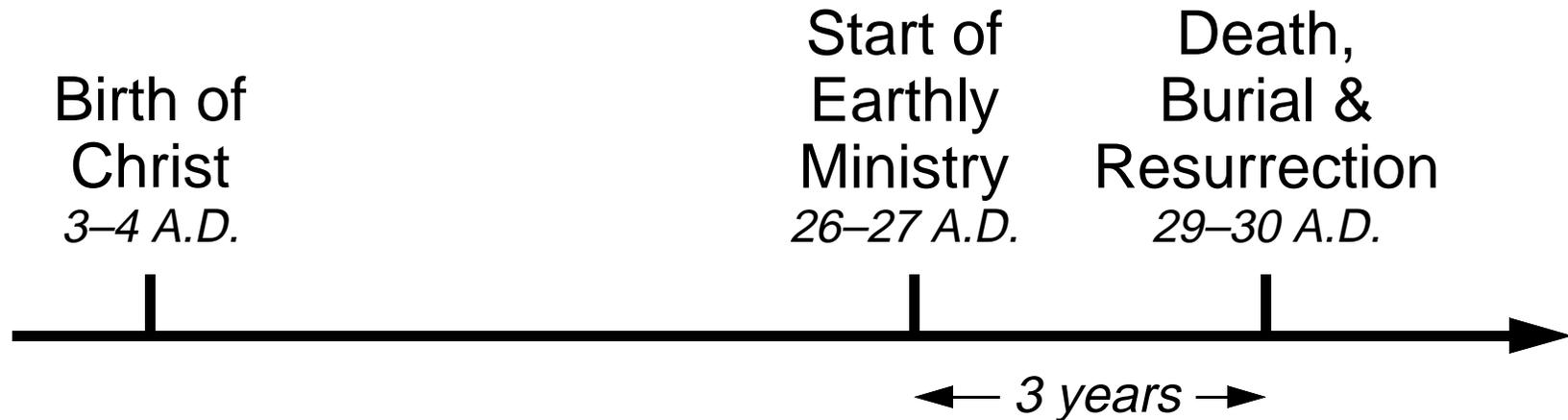


# *Why Are There So Many Churches?*



*Our Plea For  
A Return To  
New Testament  
Christianity*

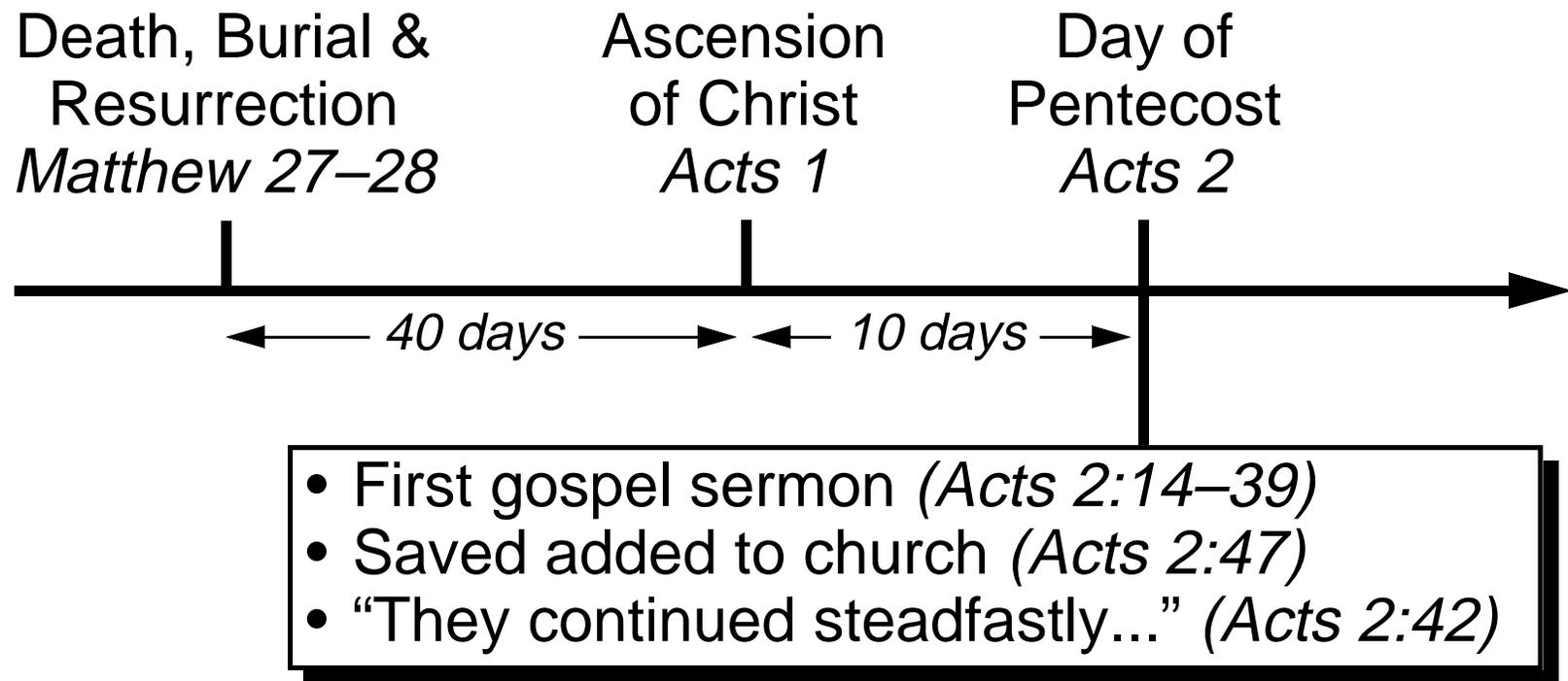
# *The Plan And Prayer Of Jesus*



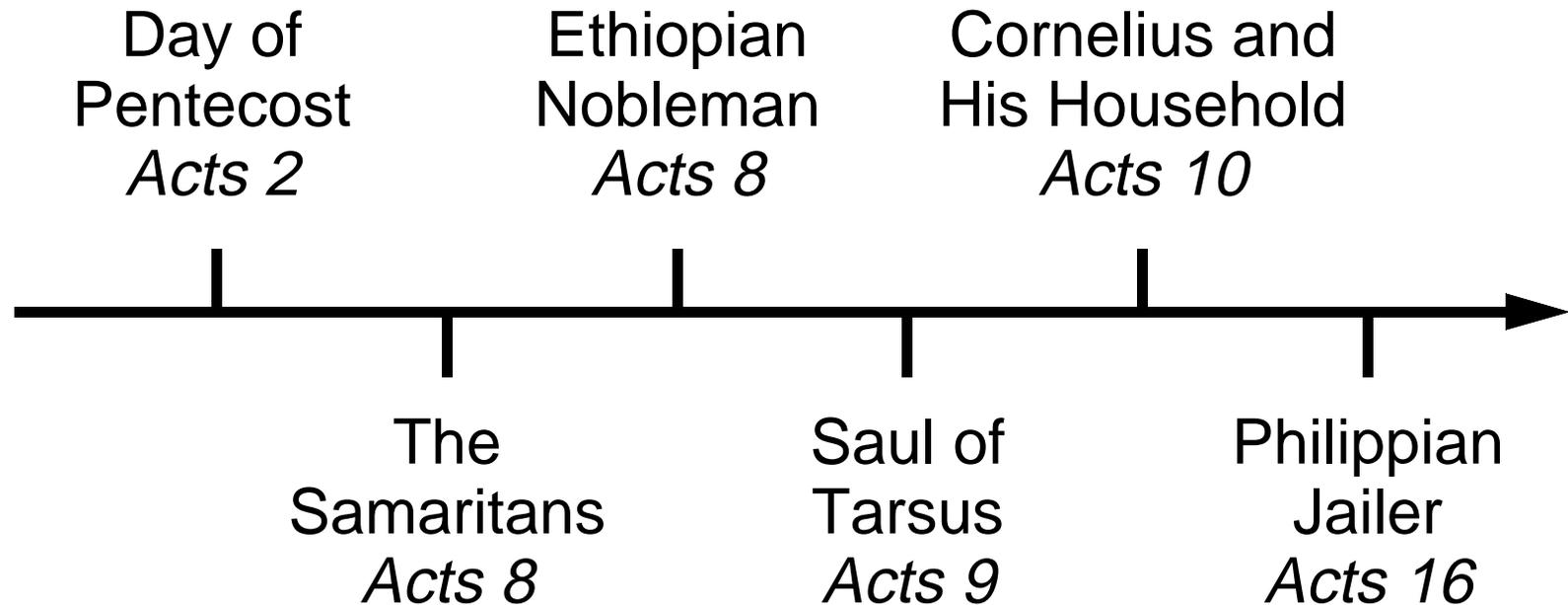
**Matthew 16:18** “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it”

**John 17:21** “That they all may be **one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent me”

# *The Establishment Of The Church*



# ***The Book Of Acts: Examples Of Conversion***



# ***The Early Church***

## **Governed By The Apostles...**

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come” (*John 16:13*)

## **Till The Completion Of The New Testament...**

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (*2 Timothy 3:16–17*)

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (*Jude 3*)

# ***After The Apostles Died***

## ***A Gradual Departure From The Word Of God***



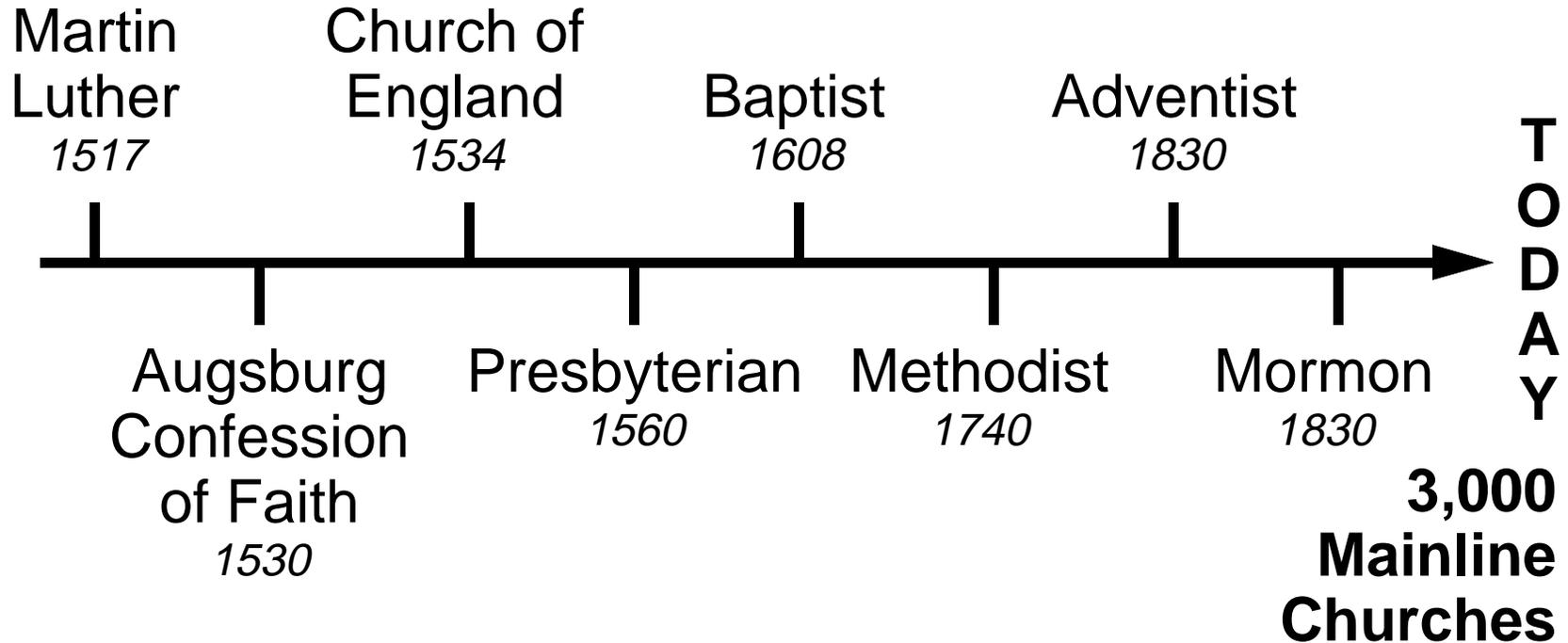
- Presiding Elder
- Bishop
- Diocese
- Council of Bishops
- Country Bishops
- Arch Bishops
- The Pope (606 A.D.)

# ***The Falling Away Brought Many Changes***



- Council of Nicea (325 A.D.)
- Latin Mass (394 A.D.)
- Purgatory (593 A.D.)
- Transubstantiation (1000 A.D.)
- Celibacy of Priests (1015 A.D.)
- Indulgences (1192 A.D.)
- Auricular Confession (1215 A.D.)
- Sprinkling (1311 A.D.)

# *The Protestant Reformation*



“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all **speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (*1 Corinthians 1:10*)

# ***The Seed Of The Kingdom***

*“The seed is the word of God” (Luke 8:11)*

The Bible Alone —————→ Christian

Bible + Methodist Discipline —→ Methodist

Bible + Baptist Manual —————→ Baptist

Bible + Book of Mormon —————→ Mormon

*Denominations result when men tamper with the seed!*

**Organization Of The Church:**

Elders, Deacons, Evangelists and  
Members (*Philippians 1:1*)

**Acts Of Worship:**

Singing (*Colossians 3:16*)  
Praying (*Acts 2:42*)  
Giving (*1 Corinthians 16:1,2*)  
Teaching (*Acts 2:42*)  
Communion (*1 Corinthians 11:23–29*)

**The Work Of The Church:**

Evangelism (*Acts 13:1–3*)  
Edification (*Ephesians 4:11–16*)  
Benevolence (*Romans 15:25,26*)

**Names Used To Describe The Church:**

Church of God (*1 Corinthians 1:2*)  
Church of Christ (*Romans 16:16*)  
House of God (*1 Timothy 3:15*)  
Household of faith (*Galatians 6:10*)

**Names Used To Describe Members:**

Disciples, Christians (*Acts 11:26*)  
Saints (*Romans 1:7*)  
Brethren (*Galatians 6:1*)

# ***Abiding In The Doctrine Of Christ***

“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” (*2 John 9*)

# ***Outside The Doctrine Of Christ***

***The New Testament***

**Name, Organization  
And Practice Of The  
Church Of Christ**

*“If anyone speaks, let him  
speak as the oracles of  
God” (1 Peter 4:11)*

Yearly Communion

Worldly Living

Cake Sales

Political Motives

Earthly Headquarters

Creed Books

Social Gospel

Clergy / Laity

False Doctrine

# ***Our Plea Is For A Return To First Century Christianity!***

*Book, chapter and verse.*

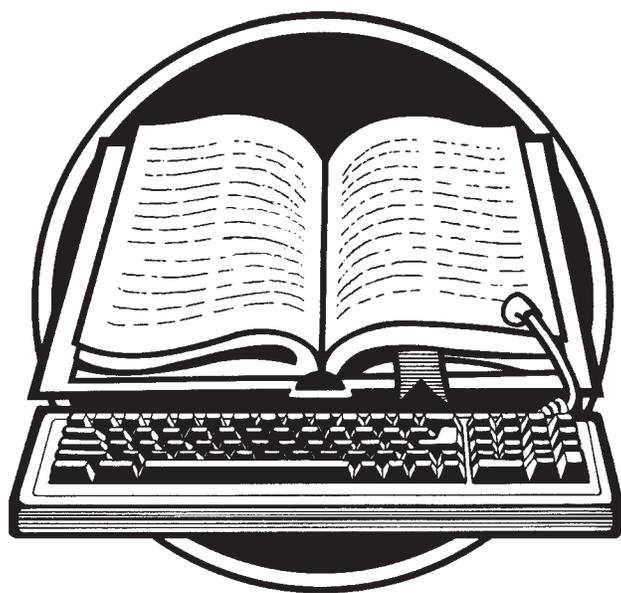
*Everything the Scriptures teach.*

*Nothing the Scriptures do not teach.*

*Call Bible things by Bible names.*

*Do Bible things in Bible ways.*

*Back to the Bible!*



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Church Bulletin Articles

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