



The Camden Companion

"COME LET US REASON TOGETHER, SAYS THE LORD"

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FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

There is a special young lady I have known ever since she was born and I can remember even as a little girl she would say that she wanted me to perform her wedding. True to her word, I got the call a couple of months ago asking me to do her wedding for her. Of course I was delighted to do so.

The wedding was held in Huntington, West Virginia but the rehearsal was held over in Ohio the night before. I know my way around Huntington but had no idea how to get to the site of the rehearsal. I was in need of directions. I had some directions emailed to me that were a little off, but I figured out where I needed to go and made it there in plenty of time.

It occurred to me that good directions are desperately needed when we don't know where we are going. But the first step is even more important. One can never get where they are going unless the first step is correct. For example, one cannot get to the church building without turning the right direction out of the driveway.

In spiritual matters, Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:6.) He IS the directions to get to heaven. But the directions mean nothing without taking the first correct step to follow those directions. Mark 16:16 tells us what the first step is and only then do the rest of the directions make sense.

What Church Should I Join?

The title question is one that many in every generation have dealt with. Some have seriously pondered over the "right" choice while others have sought to remain loyal to their "favorite" brand of Christianity. Still others rejected all "churches" and went out and started their own. Why can't those who do such things see that they only add to the problems in religion?

It may surprise many but the New Testament does not speak of anyone "joining the church." In Acts 2:36-46, we read of the church's establishment. People were convicted of sin, asked what to do to be saved, and were told to *"repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins."* In verse 41 we find that 3000 were baptized *"and there were added unto them that day..."* The question is - - who did the adding? Did the 3000 simply "join" the church? The answer is found in verse 46, *"And the Lord added to the church such as were being saved."* Surely the meaning of these verses is plain and simple to understand. When folks obey the gospel by being baptized (as they were in Acts 2) the Lord will add them to His church. No need to pick one to join.

Throughout the book of Acts the same scheme was followed. The gospel was preached, people believed, and repented of sins, and then were baptized to wash those sins away. Despite what preachers may say today, there is no divine record of folks being saved any other way after the death of Jesus. In New Testament days people were saved by doing the same things and once they were done, the Lord added them to the one church He built. It is that simple - don't make it hard.

It will work today as well. Imagine if every preacher in Versailles, Ky preached exactly the same thing as what the book of Acts describes. What church would people be a member of? You know the answer.