




# Only One Church: How To Identify It?

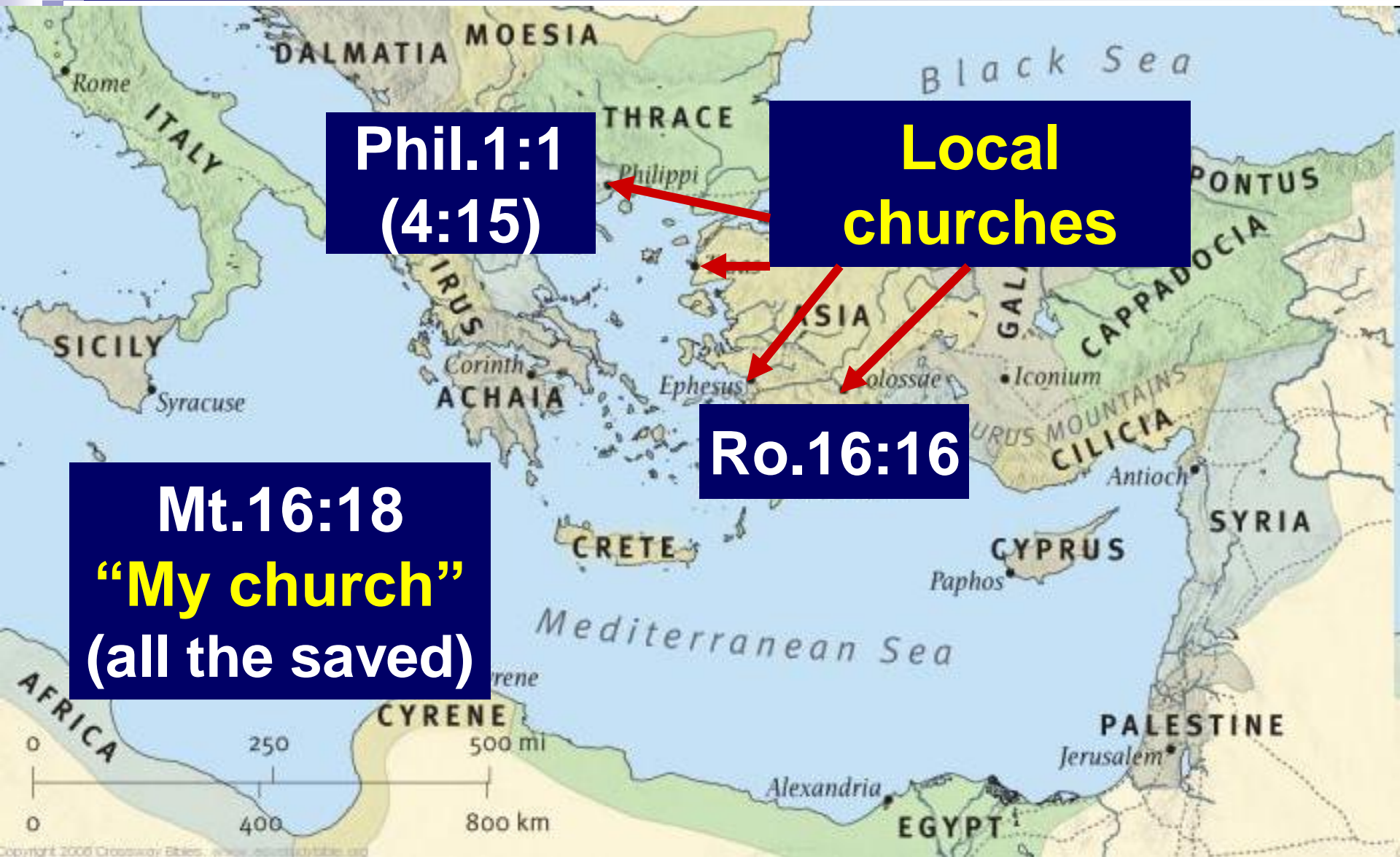
## ***The main things are the plain things***

**“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were 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” –Ep.4:4-7**

**“And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” –Ep.1:22-23**



# **I. We Can Read Of Church(es) In N.T.**



**Phil.1:1  
(4:15)**

**Local churches**

**Ro.16:16**

**Mt.16:18  
“My church”  
(all the saved)**

# The Lord's church in Jerusalem, Acts 2 – JEWS

- **Standard:** Word, 14; 22; 29, 33; 40, 41
- **Basis:** Jesus' life, death, resurrection, 22-24, 32. Exalted, 33-36
- **Conditions:** repent, be baptized 38
- **Results:** added saved together, 41, 47
  - Didn't add to church w/o saving them
  - Didn't save w/o adding to church

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The "church"  
in Jerusalem  
(Ac.5:11, 14; 8:1)

# The Lord's church in Jerusalem, Acts 2 – JEWS

This church  
was not a  
denomination

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# The Lord's church in Samaria, Acts 8 – **SAMARITANS**

- **Standard:** Word, 4; 6; 14
- **Basis:** Jesus, 5. Exalted, 12
- **Conditions:** belief, baptism, 12
- **Results:** church in Samaria, Ac.9:31



# The Lord's church in Samaria,

## SAMARITANS

The "church"  
in Samaria  
(as Jerusalem)

- **State:** 14
- **Background:** 12
- **Conditions:** belief, baptism, 12
- **Results:** church in Samaria, Ac.9:31

# The Lord's church in Samaria, Acts 8 – 9

- **Standard:** Word
- **Basis:** Jesus, 5.
- **Conditions:** belief, baptism
- **Results:** church in Samaria, Ac.9:31

**United; no  
denomination  
here either**

# **The Lord's church in Corinth, Ac.18 – GREEKS**

- **Standard:** Word, 4-5, 11
- **Basis:** Jesus, 5. Exalted, 1 Co.1:12-13
- **Conditions:** belief, baptism, 8
- **Result:** church in Corinth, 1 Co.1:1-2

# The Lord's church in Corinth,

The "church"  
at Corinth  
(as Jerusalem)

**GREEKS**

5, 11

Exalted, 1 Co.1:12-13

■ **Conditions:** belief, baptism, 8

■ **Result:** church in Corinth, 1 Co.1:1-2

# The Lord's church in Corinth,

Ac.1

- **Standard: Wo**
- **Basis: Jesus,** :12-13
- **Conditions: belief, baptis**, 8
- **Result: church in Corinth, 1 Co.1:1-2**

**No  
denomination  
here either**

**Do we still have the Word?  
...exalted Lord? ...conditions?  
Why not same result? (Ac.2:39)**

# The Lord's church in Corinth,

Ac.1

- Standard: Wo
- Basis: Jesus,
- Conditions of belief, bap
- Resu


No  
denomination  
here either

:12-13

If we do what they did,  
we will be what they were

1:1-2

Do we still have the Word?  
...exalted Lord? ...conditions?  
Why not same result? (Ac.2:39)



I. We Can Read Of Church(es) In N.T.

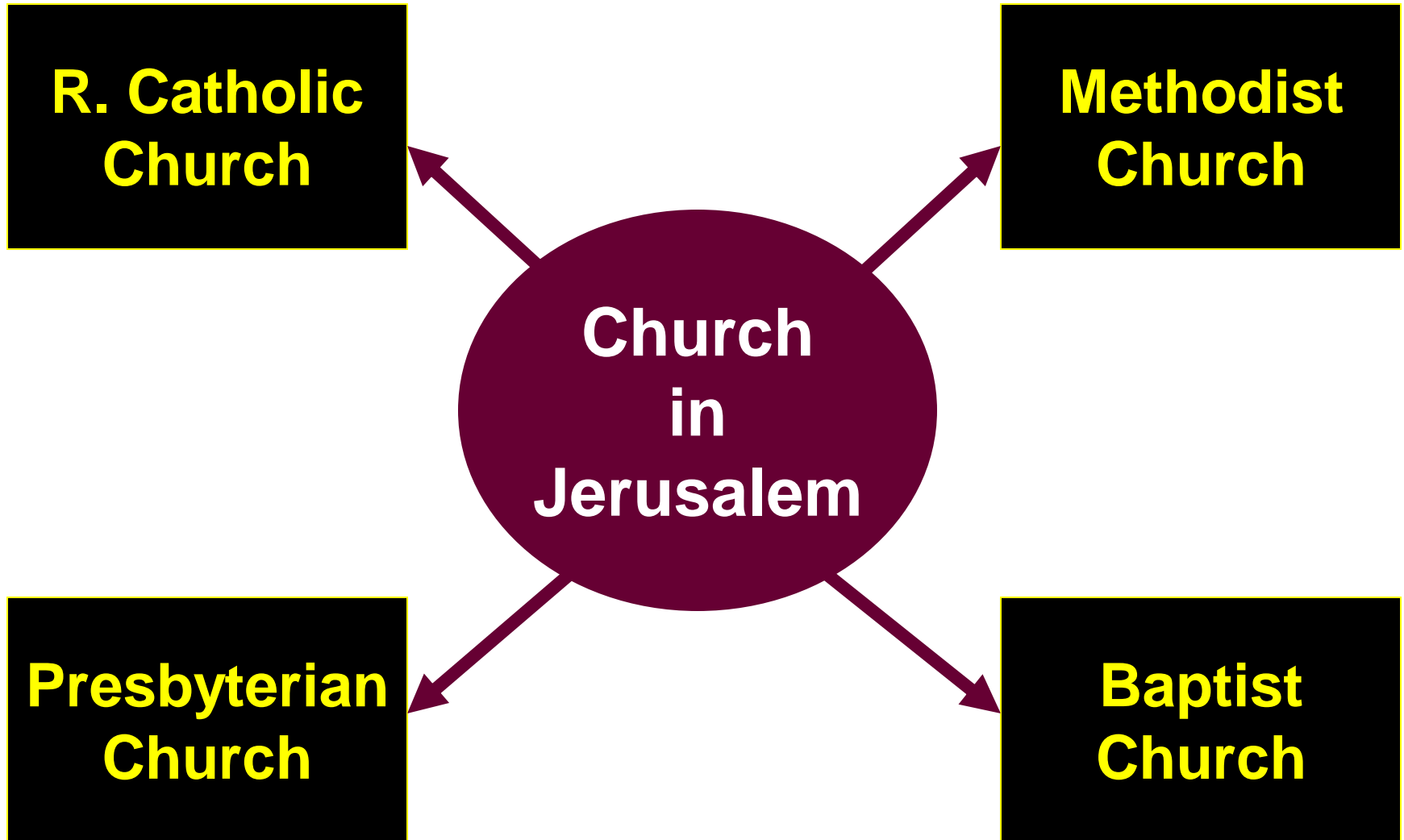
**II. We Cannot Read Of  
'Denominations' In N.T.**

# Denominational Practices: change with the times

“It is most likely that in the Apostolic age when there was but ‘one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.’ and no differing denominations existed, the baptism of a convert by that very act constituted him a member of the church, and at once endowed him with all the rights and privileges of full membership. In that sense, ‘baptism was the door into the church.’ Now, it is different...” – Hiscox, *Manual for Baptist Churches*, p. 22



# Lord's church at Jerusalem



# Lord's church at Jerusalem

**R. Catholic**

**Methodist**

What makes them denominational?


They joined: **“now it is different”**

They follow something besides NT

Lord's church is not a denomination  
though separate from other groups

**Presbyterian  
Church**

**Baptist  
Church**



I. We Can Read Of Church(es) In N.T.

II. We Cannot Read Of 'Denominations' In N.T.

**III. How To Identify  
The Lord's Church?**

# 1. Establishment: seed

Lk.8:...11

<b>300 satanic enemies</b>	<b>300 gospel preachers</b>
<b>Sow tares</b>	<b>Preach gospel</b>
<b>One crop</b>	<b>One product</b>

# 1. Establishment: seed

Lk.8:...11

<b>300 denom. preachers</b>	<b>300 gospel preachers</b>
<b>Sow creeds</b>	<b>Preach gospel</b>
<b>300 denominations</b>	<b>One product</b>

## 2. Doctrine: gospel

### Ac.2:42 (Mk.16:15-16)

**“It is not enough, therefore, simply to throw out the name of Church, but judgment must be used to ascertain which is the true Church, and what is the nature of its unity... Our adversaries, therefore, if they would persuade us that they are the true Church must, first of all, show that the true doctrine of God is among them... since Paul declares (Eph.2:20) that the Church is ‘built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets,’ it necessarily follows that any church not resting on this foundation must immediately fall” – Calvin, Schaff’s *History*...VIII, 454**

### 3. Organization: congregation

**“Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons” –Phil.1:1 (4:15)**

**No larger organization found in NT**

**Do denominations look like this?**

## 4. Worship: spiritual Ac.2:42

**“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” – Ep.5:19**

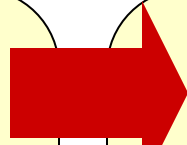
**“The custom of organ accompaniment did not become general until the eighteenth century” –Schaff-Herzog VIII, 258**



## 5. Work

### Jerusalem, Ac.2

1. Evangelism, 47
2. Edification, 42
3. Benevolence, 44f.



### Antioch, Ac.11

1. Evangelism, 24
2. Edification, 23, 26
3. Benevolence, 27ff

## 6. Terminology: oracles of God

- *Universal* church, but not “**Catholics**”
- *Baptism*, but not “**Baptist**” church
- *Methods*, but not “**Methodist**” Church
- *Bishops*, but not “**Episcopalians**”
- *Elders*, but not “**Presbyterians**”
- *Pentecost*, but not “**Pentecostals**”
- *Holiness*, but not “**Holiness**” Church
- *Last days*, but not “**Latter Day Saints**”

Ac.11:26

# Illustrated

**C**arl **H**enry **U**rma **R**alph **C**arla **H**arry

## Ac.11:21

- Ac.20:7-8
- 1 Tim.3
- 1 Tim.4:15

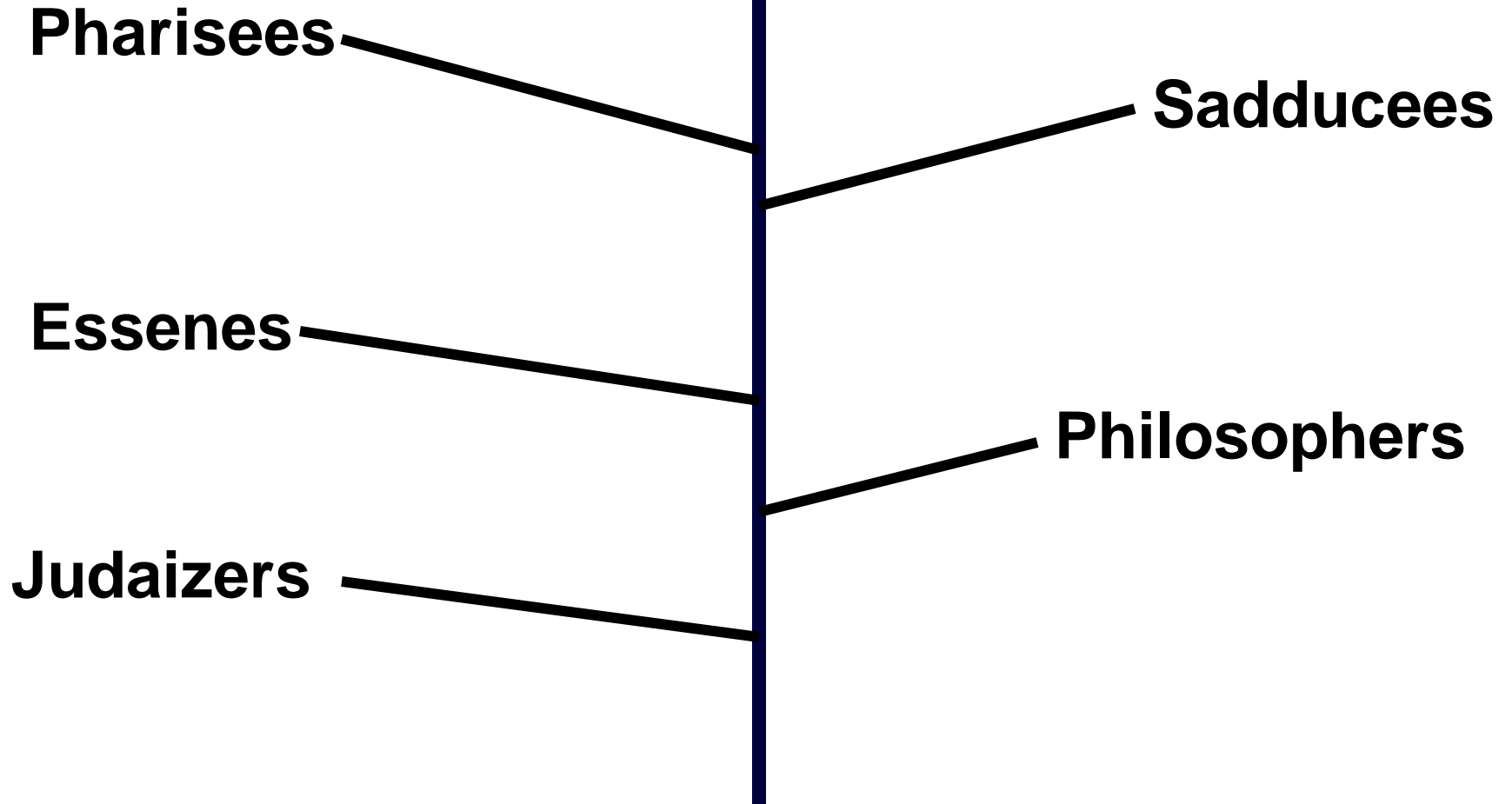
Is it a church  
“of” Christ?

They follow only the  
**Bible** . . . Is it a  
denomination?

**Individually:**  
**\*Christians\***  
(Acts 11:26)

**Collectively:**  
**\*church\***  
(Acts 11:26)

# New Testament



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```
graph TD; NT[New Testament] --- RC[Roman Catholicism]; NT --- L[Lutheran]; NT --- A[Anglican]; NT --- B[Baptist]; NT --- M[Methodist];
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**Roman  
Catholicism**

**Lutheran**

**Anglican**

**Baptist**

**Methodist**

# Jn.17:20-21

- Bitter division gave the world the right to disbelieve the Gospel – Schaeffer
- The division between Rome and evangelicals was great, but it “seems almost trifling compared to the abyss which stands between us and many ministers of our own Church” – Machen