

The Church of Christ??

By Carl McMurray

When speaking with members of the Christian church denomination, and others, one sometimes hears about Alexander Campbell being the founder of the Church of Christ. This is somehow supposed to put the Lord's church on the same plane as the denominations of men that have been started over the years beginning for the most part with the reformation period of the 1500s. We have pointed people for decades to Romans 16:16 where Paul used this terminology to describe the one church belonging to Christ, but some people just don't get it.

From another angle this past week more information about the Lord's church came to my attention from one of the authors that I publish. From an email by Morris Norman, a gospel preacher, in Athens, Alabama, comes the following information. I hope you find it as fascinating as I did. Pay particular attention to the historic names and actions of some of the men who are mentioned. It may surprise you, as it did me to learn that perhaps we have had brethren in history that were doing the Lord's work as best they could, that we did not know of.

The following was the email from brother Norman...

Keith is the preacher in the UK that helped me with my book entitled **The Search...for the church that Christ Built.**

Morris,

The identity 'church of Christ' has to my knowledge been used in England for at least a thousand years by autonomous congregations following the biblical pattern.

The evidence points to the fact that these congregations continued to the 1840s, where they joined in fellowship with the American Churches of Christ.

The Bow Lane church of Christ, in London, in the 1520s and 30s were responsible for funding and distributing Tyndale's translation of the New

Testament, which in turn led to the King James Bible of 1611, next year is the four hundredth anniversary of the KJV.

The Reformation in England in the 1530s was driven by men from the churches of Christ (Simon Fish, William Tyndale, James Bainham, John Frith) who were later persecuted for believers' baptism and congregational autonomy.

Later, a church of Christ in the 1630s met in a house near the Tower of London. William Kiffin and others were part of this group, Kiffin became one of the founders of the Baptists, the Baptists being a breakaway Calvinistic movement from the then churches of Christ. This you will find in no Baptist history. All accounts I have studied of the beginnings of the Baptist movement are incorrect. The Baptists are an apostate breakaway movement from the church of Christ.

Brotherly, Keith Sisman

<http://Traces-of-the-Kingdom.org.uk>

<http://cambridgecitycoc.org.uk>