WHAT AM I REJECTING?
(Luke 9:22)

I. You reject the Bible teaching that there is only one church.
   A. Matthew 16:16-18.
      1. Jesus said He would build “my church.”
      2. It is a singular word, signifying the singular nature of it.
   B. Paul tells us that there is one Head and one body (Colossians 1:18 & Ephesians 4:4).
      1. In this text, there are 12 pronouns and nouns used to identify the church.
      2. Each of them is singular.
   D. When you read the word “churches” in your New Testament, there is no reference to denominations because such did not exist then and should not now.
   E. Denominationalism, as we know it, did not come into existence until 1500 years after the words of Jesus.
      1. It began with Luther.
      2. This was in the year 1517.
   F. Paul told the Corinthians that he taught the same thing in every church (1 Corinthians 4:17).
      1. This couldn’t mean that Paul taught in various denominations.
      2. We know this because they all teach different things.
   G. Denominationalism rejects biblical teaching about the one church.

II. You reject the Bible teaching regarding a pattern for worship.
   A. Acts 2:42.
   B. Nadab and Abihu rejected God’s pattern for worship (Leviticus 10:1-3).
   C. Moses was shown a pattern that he was to follow (Hebrews 8:5).
      1. Moses was shown exactly what God wanted made.
      2. The word “shown” indicates something clearly revealed.
   D. The sins of Jeroboam for which Northern Kingdom kings were charged with following were sins in which worship was changed.
   E. There is a pattern for every aspect of worship.
      1. Prayer (Matthew 6:1; 1 Timothy 2:8-9).
      4. The Lord’s Supper (Mathew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:18ff).
      5. Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
   F. Our worship is to be in spirit and in truth.
      1. We are to have the right attitude.
      2. We are to worship in truth, which means in accordance with God’s word (John 17:17).

III. You reject that God’s truth can be known, understood and agreed upon.
   A. Paul told the Ephesians they could understand what the gospel (Ephesians 3:4).
B. 1 Corinthians 1:10.
C. While Paul was in Rome, Jews came to study with him and some disbelieved and they could not agree (Acts 28:17-31).
   1. Others did believe.
   2. In other words, they agreed with God’s word that came through Paul.
D. Jesus said we can know the truth if we want to (John 8:31-32).
E. John said there were people who knew the truth (1 John 2:21).

IV. **You reject the idea that doctrine is important.**
A. There is such a thing as sound, or healthy, doctrine (Titus 2:1).
B. It strengthens us and we should take heed to it and continue in it (1 Timothy 4:6).
C. Doctrine has a definite form (Romans 6:17).
D. It is something for which we should contend (Jude 3).

V. **You reject that the church of the New Testament can be identified.**
A. Acts 9:2 (“the way”).
B. Acts 28:22 - it was everywhere spoken against - people knew it.
C. Suppose I took my children to a theme park and became separated from one of them.
   1. Suppose every child there was 5 to 8 years old and the same build and hair color to my child that is lost.
   2. Will I worry that I will never find him because so many look like him?
   3. Not at all because he is unique among all others.
   4. My child has specific characteristics that make him unique from all the other children and which will allow me to tell him apart from the other children.
D. The same can be said of the Lord’s church.
   1. Jesus said He would build His church.
   2. Jesus did not promise to build churches, but His church.
   3. Since Jesus only established one church, that would seem to cut down on one’s choices.

VI. **You fail to make Jesus’ prayer for unity a reality.**
A. John 17:17-23.
   1. Denominationalism cannot be reconciled with this prayer of Jesus in any way.
   2. Jesus prayed for unity and denominationalism promotes disunity.
B. 1 Corinthians 1:10 - we are to speak and think the same thing when it comes to doctrine.
C. Romans 16:17 - notice how we are to react to those who cause division to exist.
D. Seed produces after its kind and the seed is God’s word (Luke 8:11).
   1. You can plant tomato seeds in China and you will get tomatoes.
   2. You plant the word of God in people’s hearts and you will produce only Christians.
   3. This is the only thing God’s word can produce.
E. The Bible does not create Methodists, Baptists, Pentecostals or any other denominational body.

VII. You forsake the Lord.
   A. Romans 7:1-4 - in the church we are joined to Christ.
   B. It is impossible to separate Christ from His church.
   C. Matthew 25:31-46 - I forsake the Lord when I forsake His people.