

# When DARKNESS Falls

INVESTIGATING RELIGION'S HISTORY OF EVIL



## Part 3: The Inquisition

### INTRODUCTION – Addressing The Question 'Why?'

John 18:36

### HORROR OF HISTORY: From Holy War to Holy Torture

RESPONDING TO THE CATHARS  
(GNOSTIC CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE)...

1. DOMINICAN PREACHING CAMPAIGN – to challenge their heresy.
2. FRENCH CRUSADE – to wipe out the movement.
3. THE INQUISITION – to root out those hiding underground.

- The Procedure...
- The Torture...
- The Auto-da-fe (or "Relaxation")...
- Conversos – Targets of the Spanish Inquisition...

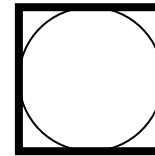
### LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: Organization VS. Organism

HOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF "CHURCH"?...

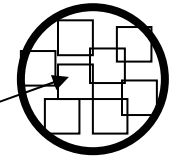
Colossians 1:13

= Organization / Institution     = Organism / Body / Community

**CHURCH AS INSTITUTION**  
(Post-Constantine / Dark Ages)



**CHURCH AS BODY OF BELIEVERS**  
(Early Church & Anabaptist Understanding)



Matthew 9:35; 13:47-50; 18:1-7; 19:13-14;  
Mark 10:13-15; Luke 18:15-17

*KINGDOM OF CHRIST* = that realm of relationships within which the leadership of Jesus is followed and his teachings are normative. It is not identified with any one organization or institution, though it may be served by various organizations and institutions.

According to Jesus, the Kingdom of God is characterized by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ power.

### CONCLUSION – Where Is Your Citizenship?

Colossians 1:3; 1 Peter 2:9

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. We have studied Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds before, regarding our call to withhold spiritual judgement over people (**Matthew 13:24-30**). Now read **Matthew 13:47-50**. a) How does Jesus' parable of the dragnet reinforce the message of the parable of the wheat and the weeds? b) How, if at all, do these parables help us understand and apply **Romans 13:4**?
3. How is the concept of "church" in **Acts 8:1-3; 9:31; 11:26; 12:5; 14:23, 27; 15:22; 20:28; Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 14:4-5, 12; 15:9; 16:19; Ephesians 2:19-22; 5:25-30; Colossians 1:18; 4:15-16; 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 10:24-25; Revelation 3:12** different from... a) how it seems to have been understood during the Dark Ages? b) how it is understood by many people today?
4. Read **2 Timothy 3:1-4:5**. a) What verse stands out to you the most? Why? b) Try to put yourself in the mindset of a Dominican Inquisitor during the Dark Ages. How would you interpret these words? c) Now look again at these words as a follower of Jesus. What lessons do you see in this passage that you can apply to your life today?

#### SO WHAT?...

5. Take a few moments (2-3 minutes) to meditate on **Matthew 13:47-50**. (If you like, after meditating share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.) Pray for each other to live out the main point of this passage.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 10 / 17, 2004