

**SERIES: MAKE IT PLAIN**  
**Essential Vision for 2024**  
**SERMON: BUILD - Part One**  
**3-10-24**

**OPENER:**

Quick Review “MAKE IT PLAIN” series

*Habakkuk 2:2 (NKJV) Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.*

I was invited to attend a luncheon this past week of several women pastors in the East Texas area. I sat around the table of about 12 women for a time of sharing, encouragement and prayer. Their churches are growing, (one was adding a new campus, another had recently added an additional Sunday morning service, one is building a new sanctuary, another church is pressing forward with new change and restructuring their ministries in their church.

The Lord spoke to us last year as pastors to prepare for growth. We are expanding the base of all ministries. I spoke to our Serve Team Leaders and said to "start structuring and administrating their team like they had twice as many people."

**GOD IS MOVING.**  
**GOD IS GROWING HIS CHURCH.**  
**GOD IS EXPANDING HIS CHURCH.**  
**HE IS BUSY REARRANGING AND RESTRUCTURING**  
**HIS CHURCH TO MAKE HER READY FOR THIS LAST HOUR.**  
**I AM NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT OUR CHURCH, BUT THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**  
**ON THIS PLANET.**

**1. THE LORD IS BUILDING HIS CHURCH**

When Jesus reached the edge of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples what they had heard other people say about him. After hearing their answer He then asked them.....

*Matthew 16:13-16 (NKJV) “But who do you say that I am?”<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

Jesus’ response to Peter’s answer contains many great truths about the Lord’s church. Jesus pronounced a blessing upon Peter and proclaimed Peter’s answer as having come to him by revelation from God. He then stated.....

*Matthew 16:18 (NKJV) And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.<sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

**SIDE NOTE:**

Before going any further, we need to clarify a point that has been misused and abused by some over the years. Peter is not the rock upon which the Lord said that He would build His church! The name “Peter” is from the same root word as that for “rock”, Peter is “petros” in the Greek meaning “small rock” and the word “Petra” is used for large rock. Jesus was saying, Okay “small rock” on the “large rock” I will build my church. Jesus was using a play on words to bring out the truth he was trying to impart. So grammatically and in the context that Jesus is speaking, Peter is not the rock. Jesus is saying I am “the Rock”.

**THE ROCK UPON WHICH THE CHURCH WILL BE BUILT IS THE TRUTH OF THE GREAT CONFESSION THAT PETER HAD JUST MADE.**

**“JESUS IS THE CHRIST - THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.”**

**JESUS IS THE ROCK OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.  
AND A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH HIM WILL BE WHAT THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON.**

> **FIRST:** Jesus said, *“I” will build my church.* He used the personal pronoun, *“I”*. He would be the one that built His church.

Since Jesus is the builder of His church, any church built by anyone else cannot be the true church of Jesus Christ.

> **SECOND:** Jesus said, *I will build “MY” church.* The church was bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ. We are His.

The church that Jesus built belongs to Jesus. It is His church.

*Acts 20:28 (NKJV) Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

**PERSONAL:**

This is not my church. This is the Lord’s Church! TLC

> **THIRD:** is that Jesus said, *I will build my “CHURCH”*.

Notice that the word is singular, Jesus never promised to build more than one church. Though there are numerous congregations of that one church, there is only one church that is found in the pages of the Bible.

At that time Jesus had not yet established His church. In fact, this is the first instance of the word *church* in the New Testament. The word *church*, as used by Jesus, is derived from the Greek *ekklesia*, which means the “called out” or “assembly.” In other words, the church that Jesus is referencing as His church is the assembly of people who have been called out of the world by the gospel of Christ.

**SIDE NOTE:**

**You are not a church by yourself.**

**And you are not connected to the church if you are not in the assembly.**

**So, the church belonging to Christ is not a physical building.....**

***1 Peter 2:5 .....you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ***

**Paul said that the church is like a body and then he said that there is one body**

**.....**

***Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all***

***1 Corinthians 12:20-21 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.***

***<sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."***

**> LAST THING : He would give the church His authority upon this earth. *He said, "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it".***

**The church has been given spiritual keys to lose and to bind.**

**There is no authority found in the Bible anywhere else that is greater than the spiritual authority the local church carries.**

- **So, the planner, master craftsman and builder of the church is Jesus Christ.**
- **The church will be built upon the foundation of Jesus and a personal encounter with Him.**
- **There is one church, one body, to be united, for the cause of the Kingdom of God.**
- **The church belongs to Jesus Christ. It has been bought and paid for by His very blood.**
- **Jesus has given the church great authority on this earth over death, hell and the grave.**

**After looking at God's design for the church in these scriptures, we can say that the church of today looks much different than what we see here in the words of the Lord.**

**> We have focused our eyes on men as the "Rock" of the church instead of the Lord.**

**> Many who call themselves Christians do not have a personal encounter with Christ, but only secondhand knowledge about Him.**

**> We are not operating in the full authority and power that God has given to His church.**

> We are not the “called out ones”. An assembly “set apart” from the world. With our lives dedicated to God. Most who attend church lives look no different than those in the world. So we have lost the glory of His light and our influence upon this world.

## **2. THE CHURCH IS IN REFORMATION**

But, I believe the church is in the process of Reformation. The Lord, by the power of His Holy Spirit is moving, growing, expanding, stretching, rebuilding and reforming His church into His initial purpose and plan for her.

**“Reform defined” : To remove errors, faults, defects; to bring drastic change; to revise; to correct; to improve**

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

When we outgrow our homes, we decide to build on an extra room or add square footage, or remodel our existing square footage to allow for better use of the space you have, because the existing plan isn’t facilitating your family.

If you were to remodel your house. You would, come up with a plan, a design. You might want to take your garage and make an extra bedroom or knock down that wall between your dining room and living room and make a lot more space. Or close in your patio to make a family room, knock out the back wall and add lots more footage for your growing family.

**BUT TO REMODEL SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO TEAR DOWN BEFORE YOU CAN BUILD.**

**GOD IS TEARNG DOWN MANMADE SYSTEMS OF THE CHURCH.**

**GOD IS RIDDING THE CHURCH OF SIN, APATHY, FALSE TEACHINGS, AND HYPOCRISY AND CALLING FOR HOLINESS AND COMMITMENT.**

**GOD IS MAKING HIS CHURCH READY TO BE A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE DARK DAYS AHEAD - A CITY ON A HILL FOR THE WORLD TO SEE.**

## **3. GOD IS FIRING UP THE FOUNDATION OF HIS CHURCH**

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

The first and most permanent feature of any structure is its foundation. The foundation naturally set the weight and the height of the building erected upon it. A weak foundation can only support a small building. A strong foundation can support a large building. There is a fixed relationship between the foundation and the building.

**THE TRUE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH IS NOTHING AND NO ONE ELSE BUT  
JESUS HIMSELF.**

**SO, THERE IS A FIXED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND JESUS  
CHRIST.**

**BUT THE CHURCH HAS CRACKS IN HER FOUNDATION.  
WE HAVE BUILT THE CHURCH ON THINGS OTHER THAN THE ROCK OF JESUS.**

**NO MINISTRY SHOULD BE BUILT ON A PERSON'S EGO, POPULARITY OR  
CHARM!**

**NO SERVICE IN GOD'S HOUSE SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE MOTIVATION OF  
RECEIVING PRAISE.**

**THE LORD ALONE IS THE ONE WHO RECEIVES ALL GLORY.**

**HE IS THE ROCK ON WHICH THE CHURCH STANDS.  
A PERSONAL LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER WITH HIM IS WHAT THE CHURCH IS  
BUILT UPON.**

**IT IS WHY THE CHURCH CRIES OUT .....  
"HE IS OUR SALVATION - HE IS THE SAVIOR - HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN  
SAVE YOU - JESUS ALONE!"**

The Lord is ridding us of the cracks of religion found in our foundation that says, because I am on the church roster I have secured my place in heaven. Or because I walked the aisle once and said a prayer there is nothing more required of me.

The church has been more focused on gathering a crowd than making true disciples of Jesus. Those who follow Jesus and are taught by Him. Those who know their Savior and follow His voice.

We have been more concerned with our outward appearance than we have with our heart. The church has been more focused on outward behavior than they have the life giving transformation of Holy Spirit power that births in us a "new heart". If your heart is for the Lord then your actions will follow.

**GOD IS BRINGING UNITY TO HIS CHURCH TO MAKE US ONE**

God is raising up a church in this last hour that does not disqualify because of age, gender, color, social class, or education.

**GOD IS RAISING UP A CHURCH THAT IS NOT DIVIDED BY DENOMINATION.**

The church that will walk this earth in these last days will stand arm in arm with the young and the old, with the rich and the poor, male and female of all colors and race and culture.

**GOD IS REBUILDING HIS CHURCH TO BE KNOWN BY ITS LOVE.**

A love that shows acceptance and forgiveness.