



Title/Date: 10/11/23 **“7 Foundations of a Biblical Church” Pt. 5** (Discussion)

(The blueprint of Scripture for building God-honoring churches)

5 Foundational Passages for the Launch of TBC Calvert: 1 Cor.3:4-15, Col.1:9-18, Rom.3:20-26/10:9-17, 2 Tim.3:10-17, Eph.4:11-16, Acts 2:42-46, 2 Tim. 4:1-5

Ephesians 4:11-16 ¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Acts 2:36-47 ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

After reading these 2 primary passages about the church – what principles about Biblical churches or applications for our church do you see in these texts? What do you remember from Sunday's Sermon – what stood out, what did you learn, what do you aim to apply or think WE as a church should apply?

I. Introduction:

II. Outline: 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's G (Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone) (1 Cor. 3:4-15, Rom. 11:36) Ephesians 1:3-6
2. The Foundation of God's S (Jesus our Cornerstone–100% Deity & Humanity)(Colossians 1:13-18,1 Peter 2:2-7) Ephesians 1:7-12
3. The Foundation of God's P (Prayer – Power, Perspective, Perseverance) (Colossians 1:9-12, 4:2) Ephesians 1:13-14
4. The Foundation of God's G (The Good News of Jesus Life, Death, & Resurrection = Righteousness, Forgiveness, & Eternal Life IF one is believing in Jesus through repentance, faith, and Lordship) (Acts 2:22-32, Romans 3:20-26, Mt. 6:33, Mark 1:15, Luke 24:47, John 3:16) Ephesians 2:8-10
5. The Foundation of God's W (The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil) (2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17) Ephesians 2:19-22, 3:1-5
6. The Foundation of God's C (The Body & Bride of Christ – the pillar/support of the truth) (Acts 2:42-47, Eph. 1:22-23,3:10-11,3:21,4:1-16,5:23-32) Eph.4:11-16
7. The Foundation of God's S (Preaching to walk God's Way – Holy Living) (1 Timothy 4:12-13,5:20,2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15) Eph.4:17-6:24

III: Review: The Foundation of the Bible

The critical foundation of **God's WORD – *Sola Scriptura*** (the Bible alone is our authority and rule for faith and practice). Why is tradition, experience, leaders, and institutions flawed and unreliable to guide us? Because Man is sinful and corrupt but God is holy and perfect... so that the Bible is NOT stories, musings, or myths of imperfect fallen man but the REVELATION of the Holy GOD to sinful men through His Son (John 1:1-5, Heb. 1:1-3) and through inspired men... prophets in the O.T. and apostles in the N.T. (2 Peter 1:19-21, Heb. 1:1-3) ...

1. Thus, the Bible is **INSPIRED** (*theopneustos* - God-breathed/lit. exhaled by the breath of God), (2 Tim.3:16-17)
2. The Bible is **USEFUL** – its utility is not only revealing and explaining God to us (John 1:14-18) – His will, His glory, and His grace), but also useful/profitable (*ophelimos*) for teaching (*didaskalia* – instruction of doctrine), rebuking (*elegmos* – exposing, convicting, reproving), correcting (*epanorthosis* – restoring, setting straight again, helping stand up), and training (*paideia* – rearing, educating, disciplining, and maturing a child),
3. The Bible is **INERRANT** (plenary inspiration - perfect in every way and all its parts – every book, every chapter, every verse, and verbal inspiration - every Word is from God as Jesus Himself promised all Scripture even the smallest letter (yod) stroke of the pen (dot and title) will be fulfilled (Mt. 5:17-18), the Word of God cannot be broken (John 10:35), and will last forever (Mt. 24:35).
4. The Bible is **INFALIBLE** (it will accomplish the purpose God has set and established it for – Is. 55:11),
5. The Bible is **CLEAR** (2 Peter 1:19-21),
6. The Bible is **SUFFICIENT** (2 Peter 1:3),
7. The Bible is **POWERFUL** to change lives as God uses it to save (makes known how we can be saved from God's coming wrath – John 8:32), sanctify (progressively helps us become holy/conformed to Jesus example – John 17:17), sustain (perseveres – gives hope – Romans 15:4), convict (holds us accountable to God's standards – Heb. 4:12-13), guide (leads us to know and follow God's will for our lives – Romans 12:2) and persevere/encourage true believers (gives us an enduring hope to be faithful to the end of our race – 2 Peter 1:5-8).

In reviewing last week's sermon on the foundation of God's Word – how exactly are many churches adopting a lower or "low view of Scripture"? Name some examples and discuss why is this so destructive and detrimental to local churches, individual Christians and even nations like the USA as a whole.

IV: The Foundation of the Church and Church Leaders (Pastors/Elders/Shepherds)

6. The Foundation of God's C (The bride of Christ, the body of Christ, the pillar and support of the TRUTH)

Acts 2:42-47

The early church was DEVOTED to:

1. **The Apostles Teaching** (Bible Study – Learning N.T./New Covenant Doctrine)
2. **Fellowship** (Practicing and Enjoying the "One Anothers")
3. **Communion** - The Breaking of Bread (The Lord's Supper)
4. **Prayer**

The Outcome of this: (5 S's)

1. **Sense** of awe of what God was doing
2. **Sacrifice** (selling and sharing their possessions to meet each other's needs)
3. **Steadfastness** – day by day with One Passion (one mind)
4. **Sincerity** of heart – house to house, meals together
5. **Salvation** – the Lord was adding to their number day by day new converts

POSITIVE "One Another" COMMANDS

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|---|--|--|
| 1. Love one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16x) | 13. Forgive one another (Eph. 4:2, 32; Col. 3:13) | 23. Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18) |
| 2. Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10) | 14. Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13) | 24. Encourage one another (1 Thess. 5:11) |
| 3. Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10) | 15. Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25) | 25. Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13) |
| 4. Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16) | 16. Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32) | 26. Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24) |
| 5. Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:11) | 17. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19) | 27. Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9) |
| 6. Be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5) | 18. Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5) | 28. Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10) |
| 7. Accept one another (Romans 15:7) | 19. Consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3) | 29. Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5) |
| 8. Admonish one another (Rom.15:14; Col. 3:16) | 20. Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4) | 30. Pray for one another (James 5:16) |
| 9. Greet one another (Romans 16:16) | 21. Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13) | 31. Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16) |
| 10. Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25) | 22. Teach one another (Colossians 3:16) | |
| 11. Serve one another (Galatians 5:13) | | |
| 12. Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2) | | |

What are the one anothers that you think TBC needs to improve or grow in...any ideas how we can specifically work on them and grow?

Ephesians 4:11-16: God's Church (His *ekklesia* – the ones He has called out of the world to belong to Him and represent Him). (7 M's)

1. The 3 remaining offices or official **M**_____ of the church **Eph. 4:11**
 - a. **Evangelists** (Missionaries) **εὐαγγελιστής** *euaggelistes*: an evangelist, a bringer of good news
 - b. **Pastors-Teachers** (Elders) **ποιμήν** *poimen*: a shepherd, **διδάσκαλος** *didaskalos*: an instructor
 - c. **Deacons** (Servants) **διάκονος** *diakonos*: a servant, minister

The office/role often corresponds to spiritual gifts (Ex. You have to have the gift of sings, wonders, and miracles to be an apostle, you have to have the gift of prophecy to be a prophet, you have to have the gift of teaching to be an Elder/Pastor, you have to have the gift of helps/serving to be a Deacon). Thus, people's spiritual gifts direct their roles and ministries within the church...as there are 9 remaining spiritual gifts given to members of the church:

 - **Romans 12:6-8**: 1. teaching (preaching) 2. serving (helping) 3. exhorting (encouraging) 4. giving (sharing) 5. leading (administrating) and 6. mercy (compassion)
 - **1 Cor. 12:7-10**: 7. wisdom (counseling) 8. faith (praying) 9. discernment (warning)

Read Rom. 12:6-8 & 1 Cor. 12:7-10 and discuss how the 9 remaining spiritual gifts help determine who is best qualified to serve in the 3 remaining church offices?
2. The **M**_____ **THINGS (priorities)** of the church (keep the main things the main things) **Eph. 4:12** – Pastors/Elders **equipping** God's people for works of service (Deacons/members **servicing**), and everyone **building** up God's people until the whole church is like one mature man who resembles Christ - doctrinally sound and complete (unity of the faith/doctrine/truth – knowledge of the Son of God) and mature like Christ (with the measure and stature of the Son of God / fullness of Christ.)
 - a. From Acts 2:42 The four main priorities of the early church:
 - apostles teaching (N.T. doctrine/study of the Bible),
 - fellowship (what we share in common/one anothers),
 - breaking of bread (communion/Lord's Supper),
 - prayer
 - b. From Acts 6:4 main priorities of the Apostles (and thus Elders should be)
 - prayer
 - the ministry/service of the Word.
 - c. From all of the NT the TBC membership manual states our Top 10 priorities are the pursuit of 1. love (worship of God, fellowship with believers, evangelism of unbelievers), 2. truth (study and practice of God's Word), 3 obedience (to the Lord's commands/ordinances), 4 prayer (power, perspective, perseverance), 5. Leaders (Biblically qualified Elders and Deacons), 6. Equipping (1 to 1 Discipleship/nouthetic counseling), 7. Membership (Committed/Faithful to One-Anothers), 8. Multiplication (Leadership Development and Church Planting), 9. Missions (global evangelism), 10. Benevolence (meeting the needs of others) out of love/Lordship to Christ.

From your study of all the Word (practicing the total/panoply/synthesis principle of hermeneutics)– what should be the top priorities and practices of the local church today?
3. The **M**_____ of the Church (End State/Ulimate Goal of God's people) **Eph. 4:13** – **Holy and Blameless** /Christlikeness! (Fullness of Christ...grow up into all aspects into Christ the head).
 - He/God the father choose us in Him/Jesus before the foundation of the world that we would be **holy**, and **blameless**, before Him in love (Eph. 1:4),
 - put on the new self that God created in righteousness and **holiness** of the truth (Eph. 4:24),
 - present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle...**holy** and blameless (Eph. 5:27),
 - **holy**, blameless, beyond reproach – complete/mature in Christ (Col. 1:22-28),
 - **blameless** on the day of Christ (1 Cor. 1:8),
 - establish your hearts without blame in **holiness** before our God (1 Thess. 3:13),
 - found in Him in peace, spotless, and **blameless** (2 Peter 3:14),
 - in **holiness** and righteousness before Him all our days (Luke 1:75),
 - be **holy** in all your behavior (1 Peter 1:15), you shall be **holy**, for I am **Holy** (Lev. 11:44-45, 19:2, 20:7, 26),
 - He disciplines us for our good that we may share in His **holiness** (Heb. 12:10),
 - **conformed** to the image/example of the Son and transformed to the will of God (Romans 8:29, 12:2),
 - **transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another (2 Cor. 3:18),
 - **bear the image** of the heavenly (1 Cor. 15:49),
 - we shall **be like Him** ...see Him face to face (John 3:2),
 - **transform** our lowly body to be like his glorious body (Phil. 3:21),
 - He has perfected for all time those who are being **sanctified/made holy** (Heb. 10:14),
 - beloved let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting **holiness** in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1),
 - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these **things**, he will be a vessel for honor, **sanctified**, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. ²² Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love **and** peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (2 Tim. 2:21-22)

From all these verses would you agree that a pursuit of holiness out of love for God IS the mission and will of God for the church? What exactly is holiness, how do we grow and practice it in the church so that as a whole we are more loving, pleasing, successful, and glorifying to God (presented before Him in love – Eph. 1:4)?
4. The **M**_____ of the Church **Eph. 4:14** – **the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ**...no longer children, weak, naïve, and susceptible to waves and winds of false doctrine, trickery of men by crafty and deceitful scheming. A discerning church that is always guarding, defending, and fleeing from the lies, temptations, and deceptions of sin and Satan that brings ruins and destruction. Notice maturity comes from learning and living the truth/doctrine, from unity of the faith (doctrine, beliefs, theology) full knowledge of the Son of God (Christology is key), and imitating Christ's full measure and stature as the ultimate example and icon of the mature man who is ideal, complete, holy, and perfect. (Matthew 5:48, Eph. 4:13, Col. 1:28-29, 4:12, Heb. 5:14-6:3, James 1:4)

Why does Paul make a big deal of the church as a whole maturity and acting like, looking like, and becoming like Christ not only unified in doctrine, but like "a mature man" - ONE ENITY/BODY that resembles and represents Christ – specifically the "fullness of Christ" – what is the fullness or maturity of Christ?
5. The **M**_____ and **M**_____ of the Church (how we are to preach/teach doctrine in the church **Eph. 4:15** ... **preaching the truth in love** (I realize the context of Eph. 4:15 is speaking the truth in love as a practice *within* the church – especially by Elders in HOW they teach and preach the Bible to their people. Previously I always used Eph. 4:15 to remind myself and others of how to speak the gospel to unbelievers – truth in love or as Col 4:5 having wisdom with gracious speech with outsiders, or as 1 Peter 3:15 said to be ready to defend your hope but with gentleness and respect.)

So our method, our approach, our philosophy of ministry must be an attitude, action, and words that are to be humble, gracious, and with the intent and delivery to build up not tear down, encourage not embarrass, spur on not spot light, and be humble not harsh. We can, should be, must be uncompromising, unequivocal, and unrelenting as far as preaching truth yet gracious, gentle, and joyful in our manner. (Jude 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Colossians 3:12-14, 2 Timothy 2:24-26)

How can we better speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) with one another not only in our relationships, interactions, but also in our teaching and preaching?
6. The **M**_____ and **M**_____ (growth, progress, advancement) of the church **Eph. 4:16** – **love one another**.

Each individual member of the church must contribute, do their part, and be properly/faithfully working to help make the church more beautiful, fruitful, and successful in the Lord's eyes. This is accomplished by each person identifying, training, and fully utilizing their spiritual gifts in ministries to make the church as productive, excellent, and glorifying to God as possible. This requires individual parts working together as a team and in teams (fitted and held together, each part/joint of the body

doing its role and properly working) – when this happens and as this happens God blesses and causes the church to grow, progress/be built up in LOVE, and advance in its God given missions and ministries. (1 Cor. 13:13, Col. 3:14-17 1 Peter 1:22, 3:8, 4:8-11 John 13:34-35 Romans 12:10 Heb. 10:24-25, 1 John 4:7-12, 2 John 1:5-6)
 We don't often have examples of mature Churches to model ourselves after...Grace Community Church (Jmac) is viewed by many as mature/model church – what makes them mature, how did they grow to be mature, and how do they stay mature and not regress no matter who leads them? What makes up an immature church? What do you think about the spiritual growth steps of KNOW, GO, GROW (similar to the Army's know, be do)? In other words growing on a personal level – KNOWLEDGE and OBEDIENCE, and then multiplying on a corporate level by EQUIPPING and SENDING.

7. The **M** _____ and **M** _____ of the church **John 14:1-3, Rev. 19:7-8, 2 Peter 3:8-14** – Jesus is the head of the church, the groom, the Lord/Master of the church and He is preparing a house for His bride and has promised to return marry the bride/church and her to His new house (**John 14:1-3**). The wedding supper of the Lamb (Jesus) with His bride the church in **Revelation 19:7-8** depicts our ultimate hope, joy, and expectation to enter and celebrate in the Kingdom of God where we will finally be whole, at peace, and at rest from our struggle with self, sin, Satan, and this fallen/cursed world. It is a consummation and celebration that we should all long for, look for, and prepare for – just as the Lord is preparing even now (**2 Peter 3:8-14** -2nd part of the Kingdom – the New Heavens and Earth).
 Are you looking forward to the marriage supper of the Lamb – the rapture and honeymoon of the church, followed by us returning with Christ from heaven to rule and reign with Him in His Kingdom on earth for a 1000 years and then beyond in heaven forever? Where in Scripture is the marriage supper/Bema Judgment for believers?

Summary: Why did God establish the church? (Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32)(Ephesians = Ecclesiology (study of the church))

- God's Purpose for the Church –to be the bride of Christ (**Rev.19:7**),body of Christ (**Eph.4:12**),and the pillar and support of the truth/gospel (**1 Tim.3:15**)
 - God's Plan/Will for the church – to be holy & blameless before Him in love (**Eph. 1:4, 1 Tim 3:15**)
 - God's Mission for the church (5 E's)
1. Equip /disciple His followers to MATURITY - towards EVERY GOOD WORK (**Eph. 2:10, 4:12, 2 Tim. 3:17, Heb. 13:21**)
 2. Evangelize the unbeliever to become true worshippers (**1 Cor. 14:24-25**)
 3. Exclaim /make known the wisdom of God (**Eph. 3:10**)
 4. Evaluate /Judge angels (**1 Cor. 6:3**).
 5. Exalt / glorify God (**Eph. 3:21**)
- God's Future for the church – Rapture/Kingdom/Heaven (**John 14:1-3, 1 Thess. 4:13-14, 5:9-10, 1 Cor. 15:51-59**)

Read again Eph. 1:4, 4:13,24, 5:27 - What are the key words in these verses that show the overall mission of the church?

Read again Eph. 4:11-16 – What is the job description, roles, and priorities of Pastor-Teachers (Elders)?

Read the following passages on Christian maturity (Eph. 4:13, Heb. 5:12-6:3, Col. 1:28-29) and discuss what Christian maturity looks like (benchmarks)

Read again Mt. 28:18-20 – how do the 3 parts of the G. Commission outline or define the mission, philosophy of ministry, and practice of the Church?

Summary: Is the Church Optional or Essential?

- God Commanded us to be faithful to a local church in **Hebrews 10:23-25**
- Those who truly belong to Christ belong to His church – His body (**1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 1:22, 2:19, 3:6, 4:25, 5:23-30, Col. 1:18-24, 3:15**)
- The church is the bride of Christ (**Eph. 5, Rev. 19**)

What about those who claim to be believers but don't go to church?

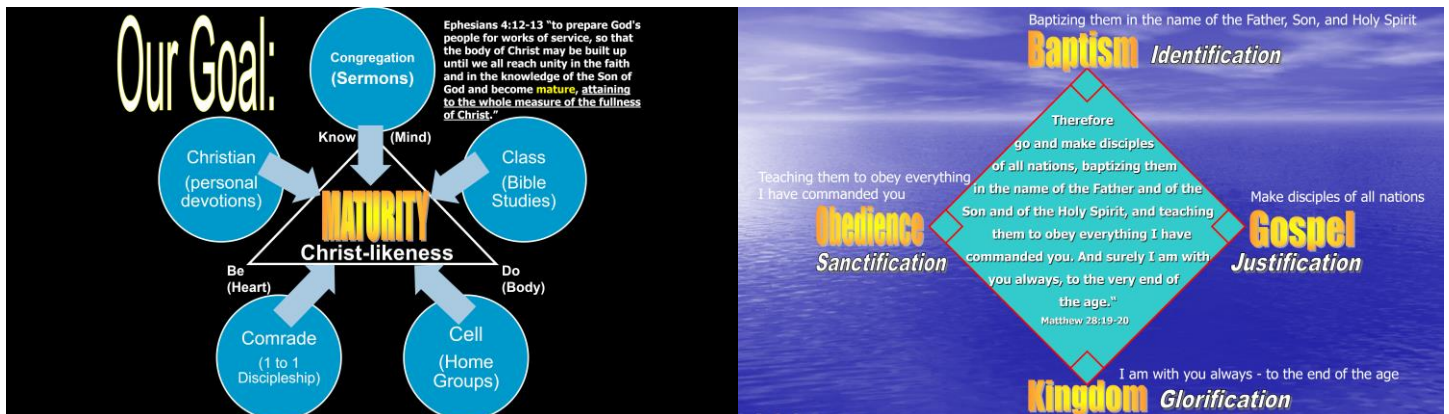
- A Sign of unbelief is leaving the fellowship of believers altogether (**1 John 2:19**)
- The H.S. guides us into truth and obedience,– which will always lead towards (not away from) the preaching and teaching Biblical churches, including the practice of all the "one Anothers" commands (**1 Tim. 4:12, John 21:15-17, Titus 2:15, 1 Peter 5:2-3, Acts 20:28**)

Why is church so important?

- God knows we are weak by ourselves, but strong together (Ecc. 4:9-10). He has commanded us to meet each others needs (**Rom. 12:13, 1 Tim. 5:16, 1 John 3:17**), bear each others burdens (**Gal. 6:2, Col. 3:13**), spur/encourage each other on towards love and good deeds (**Heb. 10:24, 1 Thes. 5:11**), serve one another (**Gal. 5:13**), and to pray for on another (**James 5:16, Eph. 6:18**).
- Satan usually tempts and deceives us in isolation (Matthew 4) and vehemently sows deception (**John 8:44, 2 Cor. 11:14, 2 Thes. 2:9-10, Rev. 12:9-10**) disunity (**James 3:13-16**), and discouragement (**Mt. 13:39**) within the church because he is like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8)
- It is God's will that everyone be protected through submission to spiritual leadership (**Hebrews 13:17, Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23**)

Conclusion: The church is the bride of Christ and part of God's authority structure, body of fellowship, and mouthpiece of the gospel designed to give God glory. Through the church God nourishes us towards optimum spiritual health, protects us, and prepares us to enjoy eternity with him. God designed the church to be a body that truly loves and serves one another like he served and loved us so that we might have a healthy relationship with Him and one another. Thus, the body of Christ is the means for us to enjoy God's provision, protection, and proficiency of God's family and chain of command.

Why do you think many Christians seem to have a "non-committal" view of the church via their lax attendance, giving, or serving in ministry rather than a view of high commitment/priority of the church as the bride of Christ, body of Christ, and pillar and support of the truth? How can we build and instill a greater commitment and priority and valuation of the church among our members or new people?



How can we specifically improve our congregational worship services, various Bible classes, cell/home groups, comrade/1 to 1 discipleship/mentoring, and overall get each of our members/Christians more in the Word and Prayer/hungering and thirsting for righteousness so they actually grow towards maturity?

Summary: The Anatomy of a Biblical Church (adopted from John MacArthur's book "The Master's Plan for the Church")

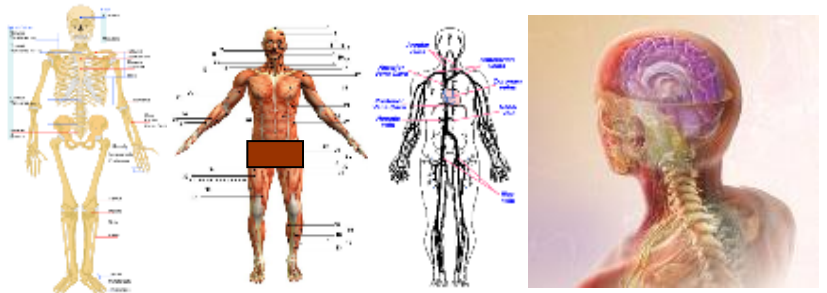
The skeletal structure: A High View of God, A High View of Scripture, Sound Doctrine, Personal Holiness, Spiritual Authority

The Muscles: Preaching/Teaching, Evangelism/Missions, Worship, Prayer, Discipleship, Shepherding, Building Up Families, Training, Giving, Fellowship

The Internal Systems: Obedience, Humility, Love, Unity, Willingness to Serve, Joy, Peace, Thankfulness, Self-Discipline, Accountability, Forgiveness, Dependence, Flexibility, Desire for Growth, Faithfulness, Hope

The Head: Jesus Christ our Savior, Shepherd, Sovereign, and Sanctifier

Why is submitting and obeying to Christ and His Word through His delegated/proxied authorities (parents, husbands, Elders, government) is such a challenge to us? (Hebrews 13:17)



V. Application: Eph. 5:22-30 Our homes, specifically marriage are to resemble the love between Christ and the church – discuss agape/Christian/divine love that is selfless, sacrificially, unconditional and what it means or practically looks like for men to nourish and cherish their wives as the spiritual leaders and examples/pace setters and for wives to submit and respect their husbands with a gentle and quiet spirit?

How to Choose a Biblical Church - LOOK for, TEST and EVALUATE a church on the following Biblical criteria:

1. Truth/Doctrine – which church is most in line with Scripture and best believes, teaches, and practices the Bible (**High View of God/High View of Scripture**). Practically the first thing you should do before visiting a church is read their doctrinal statement online or ask for a printed copy of their statement of faith (if they don't have their doctrine as the first thing on online or onsite – not good)

2. Philosophy of Ministry – before joining a church ask to meet with one of the Pastors/Elders (if they are too busy to meet – not good) and ask them questions about their philosophy of ministry – what's the most important, what their priorities are, and how they go about pursuing/accomplishing them (that will tell you a lot of about them and the church). The priorities should be in line with Acts 2:42:

- Doctrine** (Declaring God's truth by preaching through books of the Bible learn and live the whole counsel of God's will)
- Worship** (Presenting ourselves before God with sincere hearts to gratefully and passionately glorify the One true Triune God)
- Fellowship** (Practicing of the One Another's with Selfless Love, Compassion, Kindness, Service to others)
- Prayer** (Seeking earnestly and regularly God's Power, Perspective, Perseverance in our lives & ministry)
- Gospel** (Sharing God's Gracious Plan of salvation with concern for the Eternity of all people by faithful and fruitful evangelism)

3. Personal Example/Biblical Qualifications of the Elders and Deacons. Also ask them about their personal relationship/walk with the Lord - what I call the Big 5:

- Their relationship with **God** (devotional life)
- Their relationship with their **spouse** (married life)
- Their relationship with their **children** (family life)
- Their relationship with their sheep/**people** (church life)
- Their relationship with the **lost** (evangelism life)

(If they don't have a healthy/vibrant relationship with God neither will the church...if they don't Biblically lead/manage their own homes well they won't manage the church any better). The spiritual health of the church will usually resemble the health of the Pastor and his family unless the church is apathetic and rebellious against his preaching/example. 1 Timothy 3:5⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

4. Holy Living/Progressive Sanctification and Obedience of the Congregation - Do you see in the church as a whole...

- The People regularly **WITNESSING** /sharing their faith, evangelizing the lost (new people being saved, baptized, and added to the church – spiritual multiplication/reproduction - Acts 1:8, 2:41,47 5:14, 6:1,7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5, 19:20)
- The People regularly **PRAYING** for the lost, praying for each other, seeking God's will - His power, His perspective, His perseverance – Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4)
- The People regularly **FELLOWSHIPPING**, practicing the one anothers, and enjoying their closest friendships within the church – Acts 2:42, Heb. 13:16.
- The People regularly **STUDYING** and growing in their knowledge and practice of the Holy Scriptures privately (personal devotions) and corporately (Congregation, Class, Cell, Comrade, and Christian settings) (Goal to learn and live out the truth of God's Word – Acts 6:4, 2 Peter 3:18).
- The People progressively **OBEYING** the commands of Jesus in the N.T. (Acts 5:29, Mt. 28:18-20) so that others can see a growing Christlikeness/holiness/difference in their marriage, family, conduct at work, service/contribution within the church, and outreach/Christian witness to the unsaved world around them. (Goal: rounding the bases – 1st base/conversion, 2nd base/baptism, 3rd base/membership & maturity, Home base – death, rapture, Kingdom, Heaven)

5. Their overall goals, motives, and mission statement (how do they define success, who are they trying to please, who are what are they striving for)

Do you see in the church as a whole...

- A Focus on man vs a focus on **God**
- A Focus on money vs **Christian maturity**
- A Focus on buildings/facilities vs the **true temples (people's souls)** that last forever)
- A Focus on success by what man sees/thinks/wants (#s, buildings, programs, popularity, influence) vs what **God sees/thinks/wills** (new people saved, baptized, disciple/equipped towards Christlike maturity)
- A Focus on the Culture vs a Focus on **Scripture**
- A Focus on the Temporary vs a Focus on the **Kingdom/Eternity**
- A Focus on Self vs a focus on the **Savior**

What are the most important things you and your family look for in a church?

GIVING

Ways To Give

Give Online

Use this online giving form to tithe right here.

Give In Person

Sunday mornings are a great time to give. During offering all donations are collected.

Mail A Check

Checks & cash can be mailed in. Please mail to our church office location.

24404 Three Notch Rd.

Hollywood, MD 20636

\$ **0**

FUND

TBC General Giving ▾

FREQUENCY

One-Time

Weekly

Monthly

Enter a dollar amount to make a gift.

TRUTH BIBLE CHURCH



FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEEKING TO...

LOVE GOD SUPREMEPLY

Matthew 22:37-38 ³⁷ And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." ³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment.

SERVE PEOPLE SINCERELY

Matthew 22:39 ³⁹ "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

REACH THE LOST URGENTLY

Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Ephesians 4:11–16

¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

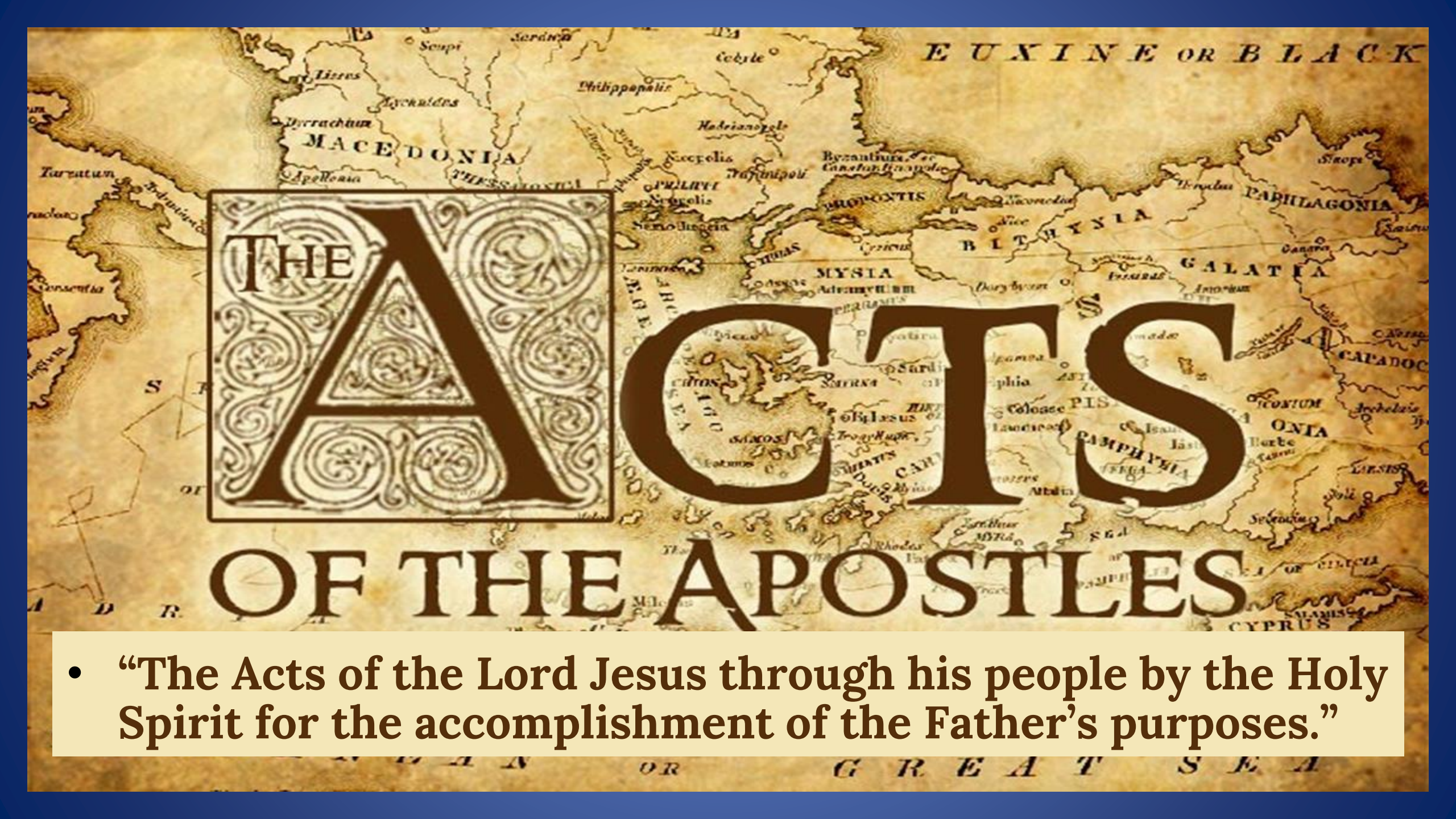
Acts 2:36-47

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

2 Timothy 4:1–5

¹ I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.





THE ACTS
OF THE APOSTLES

- “The Acts of the Lord Jesus through his people by the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of the Father’s purposes.”

Sermon Title:

“7 Foundations of a Biblical Church” (pt 5)

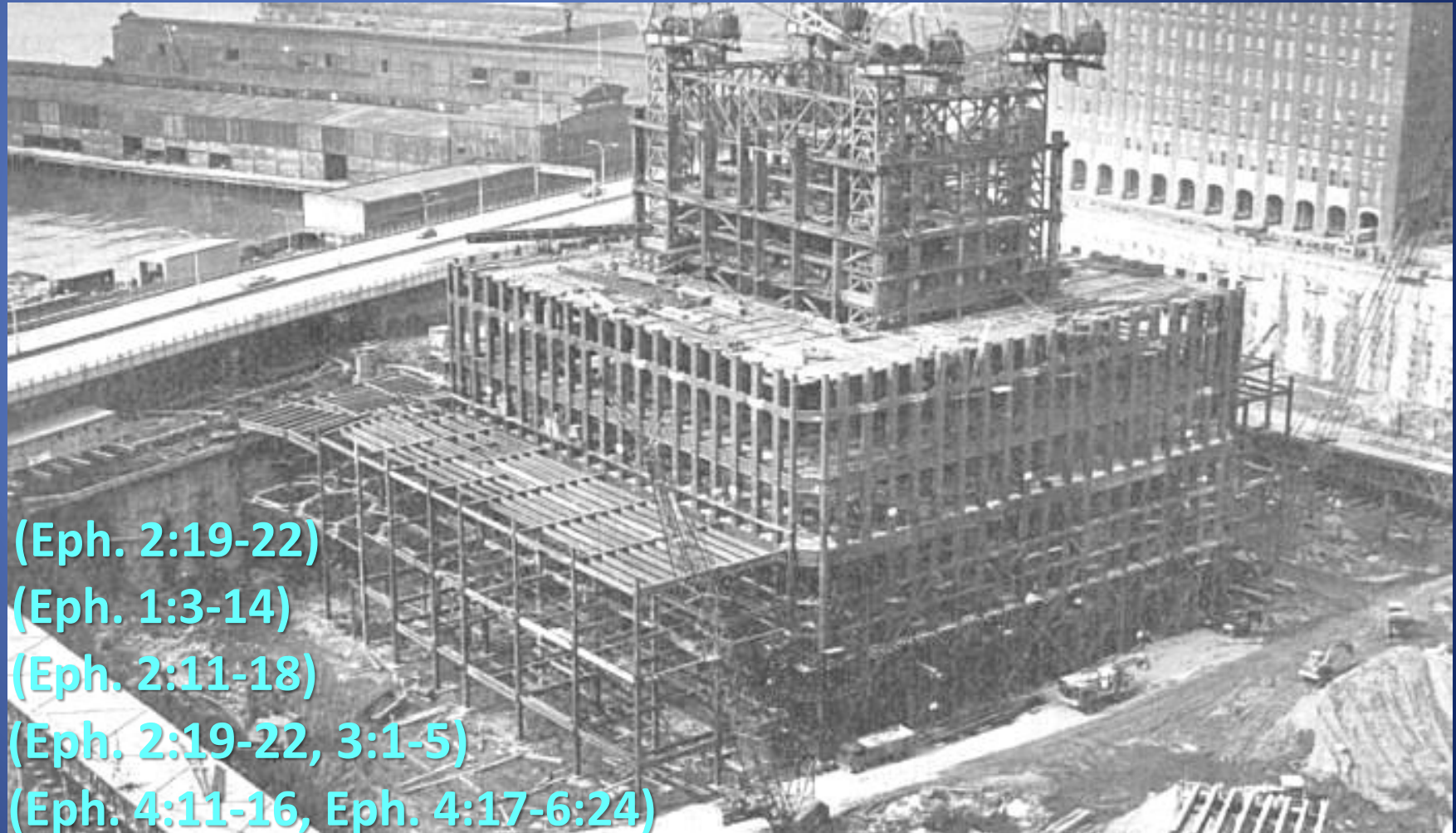
(The blueprint of Scripture for building God-honoring churches)

- TBC St. Mary's
August 17, 2008

- TBC Calvert
September 10, 2023

5 Foundational Passages
for the Launch of TBC Calvert:

- 1 Corinthians 3:4-15 (Eph. 2:19-22)
- Colossians 1:9-18 (Eph. 1:3-14)
- Romans 3:20-26, 10:9-13 (Eph. 2:11-18)
- 2 Timothy 3:10-17 (Eph. 2:19-22, 3:1-5)
- 2 Tim.4:1-5, Acts 2:42-46 (Eph. 4:11-16, Eph. 4:17-6:24)



7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's Glory (Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone) (1 Corinthians 3:4-15, Romans 11:36)

Ephesians 1:3-6

2. The Foundation of God's Son (Jesus our Cornerstone–100% Deity & Humanity)(Colossians 1:13-18,1 Peter 2:2-7)

Ephesians 1:7-12

3. The Foundation of God's Spirit (Prayer – Power, Perspective, Perseverance) (Colossians 1:9-12, 4:2)

Ephesians 1:13-14

4. The Foundation of God's Gospel (The Good News of Jesus Life, Death, & Resurrection = Righteousness, Forgiveness, & Eternal Life IF one is believing in Jesus through repentance, faith, & Lordship) (Romans 3:20-26, 10:9-13, Acts 2:22-41)

Ephesians 2:8-10

5. The Foundation of God's Word (The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil) (2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)

Ephesians 2:19-22, 3:1-5

6. The Foundation of God's Church (The Body & Bride of Christ – the pillar and support of the truth)

Ephesians 4:11-16 (Eph. 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32, Acts 2:42-47)

7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching Holy Living-to walk God's way)(1Tim.4:12-13,5:20,2Tim.4:1-5,Titus 2:15)

Ephesians 4:17-6:24

Introduction

T H E
N E W - E N G L A N D
P R I M E R

I M P R O V E D
For the more easy attaining the true
reading of English.

T O W H I C H I S A D D E D
The Assembly of Divines, and
Mr. COTTON'S *Catechism*.

B O S T O N :

1777.

M I L K
F O R
B A B E S .

D R A W N
Out of the Breasts of both
T E S T A M E N T S .

Chiefly, for the spirituall nourishment
of *Boston Babes* in either *England* :
But may be of like use for any
Children.

By JOHN COTTON, B. D.
and Teacher to the Church of Boston
in New-England.

L O N D O N ,
Printed by J. Coe, for Henry Overton,
and are to be sold at his Shop, in
Popes-head Alley.
1646.

Graduated literacy instruction began with the alphabet, simple letter combinations, and syllables, increasing to complex sentences intended for rote memorization. Themes of sin, death, punishment, salvation, and respect for authority were displayed through alphabetic rhymed couplets, poems, prayers, and scriptures.

What's in it?



- Grammar lessons
- Catechism, Prayers, Scripture
- Poetry



In Adam's fall
We sinned all.



Thy life to
mend,
God's Book at-
tend.



The Cat doth
play,
And after slay.



A Dog will bite
A thief at
night.



The Eagle's
flight
Is out of sight.



The idle Fool
Is whipped at
school.



As runs the Glass,
Man's life doth
pass.



My book and
Heart
Shall never part.



Job feels the rod,
Yet blesses God.



Proud Korah's
troop
Was swallowed
up.



The Lion bold
The Lamb doth
hold.



The Moon gives
light
In time of night.



Nightingales sing
In time of spring.



The royal Oak, it
was the tree
That saved his
royal majesty.



Peter denies
His Lord, and cries.



Queen Esther
comes in royal
state,
To save the Jews
from dismal fate.



Rachel doth mourn
For her first-born.



Samuel anoints
Whom God ap-
points.



Time cuts down
all,
Both great and
small.



Uriah's beaute-
ous wife
Made David seek
his life.



Whales in the
sea
God's voice obey.



Xerxes the Great
did die,
And so must you
and I.



Youth forward
slips—
Death soonest
nips.



Zaccheus, he
Did climb the
tree,
His Lord to see.



The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's Glory (What is Eternal / What Lasts)

Our Church must be:

- God Focused
- God Powered
- God Glorifying

because it's

1. **God's** growth (2x)
2. **God's** workers
3. **God's** field
4. **God's** building
5. **God's** grace

1 Corinthians 3:4-15 ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men? ⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but **God was causing the growth.** ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but **God who causes the growth.** ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are **God's fellow workers;** you are **God's field,** **God's building.** ¹⁰ According to the **grace of God** which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.



INAGURATION DATE
MAY 1, 1931



The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

2. The Foundation of God's Son (to have the supremacy in EVERYTHING)

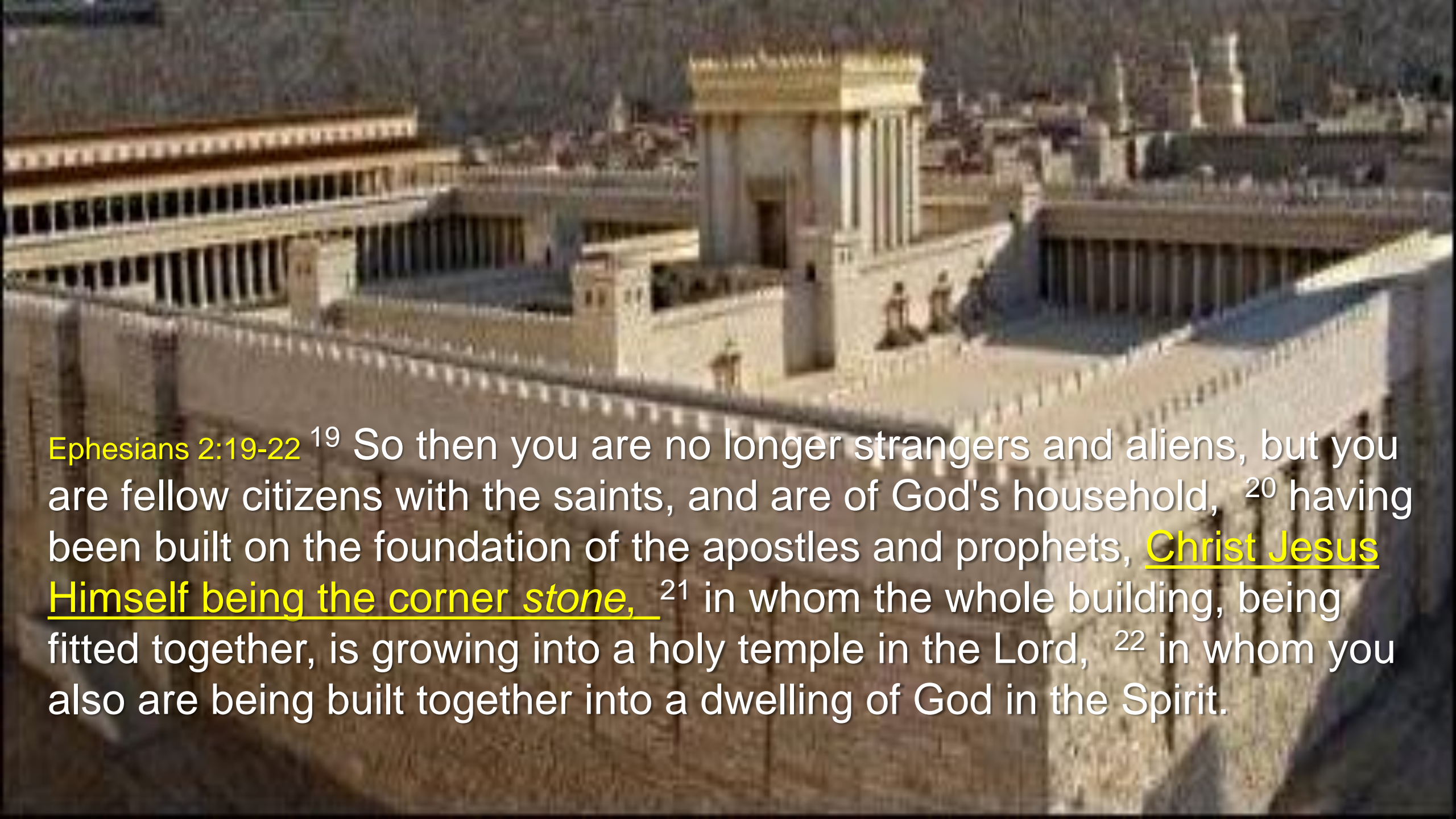
Jesus is our...

- **Deliverer** (from the domain of darkness - slavery to Sin/Satan/Hell)
- **King** (Entrance into God's Eternal Kingdom)
- **Redeemer** (redemption - saved from God's wrath by His blood)
- **Savior** (Forgiveness of ALL sin)

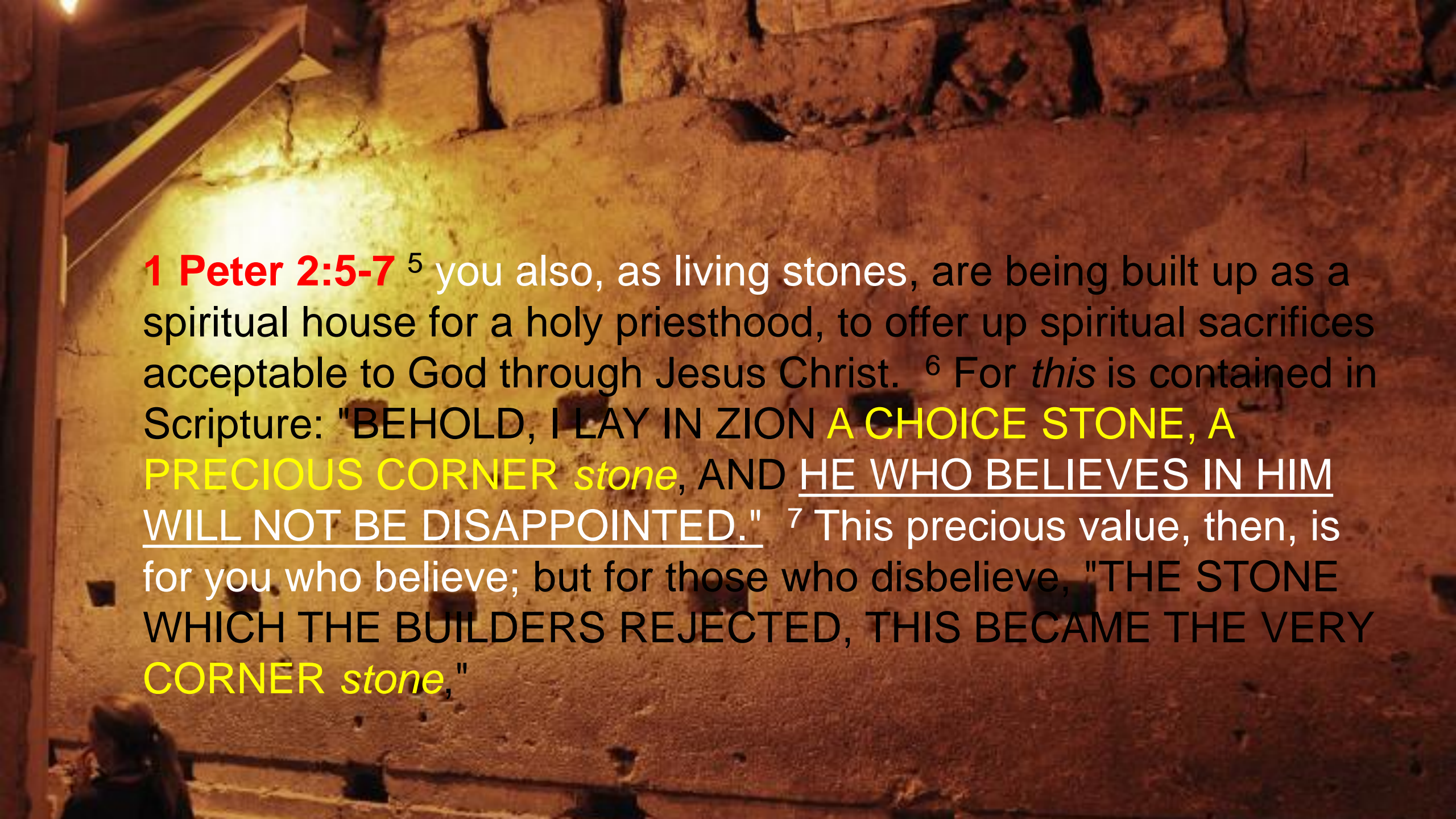
Jesus is:

1. The **Image** of the Invisible God
2. **Preeminent one** of all creation (Unique one/preeminent)
3. The **Creator** of the Universe (all things created through Him and FOR Him)
4. **Sustainer** of Life (in Him all things hold together)
5. **Head** of the Church
6. **First one** from the dead (beginning – will raise us also)
7. **Worthy** of 1st Place/ Supremacy in EVERYTHING!

Colossians 1:13-18 ¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

An aerial photograph of the Temple of Jerusalem, showing the Temple Mount and the Temple itself. The temple is a large, rectangular building with a central courtyard and a high wall. The architecture is classical, with many columns and a prominent central structure. The surrounding area is a city built on a hillside.

Ephesians 2:19-22 ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,** ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

A photograph of a stone wall, likely part of an ancient structure, with a spotlight illuminating a section of it. The wall is made of large, irregular stones. The text is overlaid on the image, with some words in red and some in yellow. The text is a quote from 1 Peter 2:5-7, discussing living stones and a spiritual house.

1 Peter 2:5-7 ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For *this* is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION **A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone**, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." ⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY **CORNER stone**,"

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

3. The Foundation of God's Spirit (The Holy Spirit)

(Perspective, Power, and Perseverance through PRAYER)

Our Church must be:

- Devoted to Prayer
(Ps. 62, Col. 4:2, 1 Thess. 5:17)
- Praying for each other constantly
(like Paul was praying unceasingly for the Colossians)

in order to be:

1. **Filled** (with God's knowledge, wisdom, understanding)
2. **Walk Worthy** of the Lord
 - a. **Pleasing** Him at all times/all ways
 - b. **Fruitful** in good works/increasing knowledge
 - c. **Strengthened** (all power, all steadfastness)
 - d. **Giving Thanks** to the Father (inheritance)

Colossians 1:9-12 ⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

4. The Foundation of God's Gospel

(The GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ's Perfect Life, Sacrificial Death, and Victorious Resurrection)

1. God's Plan of the Gospel – **LOVE (Relationship)**

John 3:16, 17:3, Hebrews 8:10-13 (purpose to know, love, serve, worship God forever)

2. Man's Problem requiring the Gospel – **SIN** (separation, death, Hell)

Romans 3:23, 6:23, Isaiah 59:2

3. God's Provision of the Gospel – **Jesus (Savior & LORD)**

(Jesus' life, death, resurrection for

Imputed righteousness, total forgiveness, and eternal life)

Colossians 2:13-16, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18

4. Man's Participation to receive the Gospel – **Believing** (trusting & relying)

(true belief involves repentance, faith, and LORDSHIP)

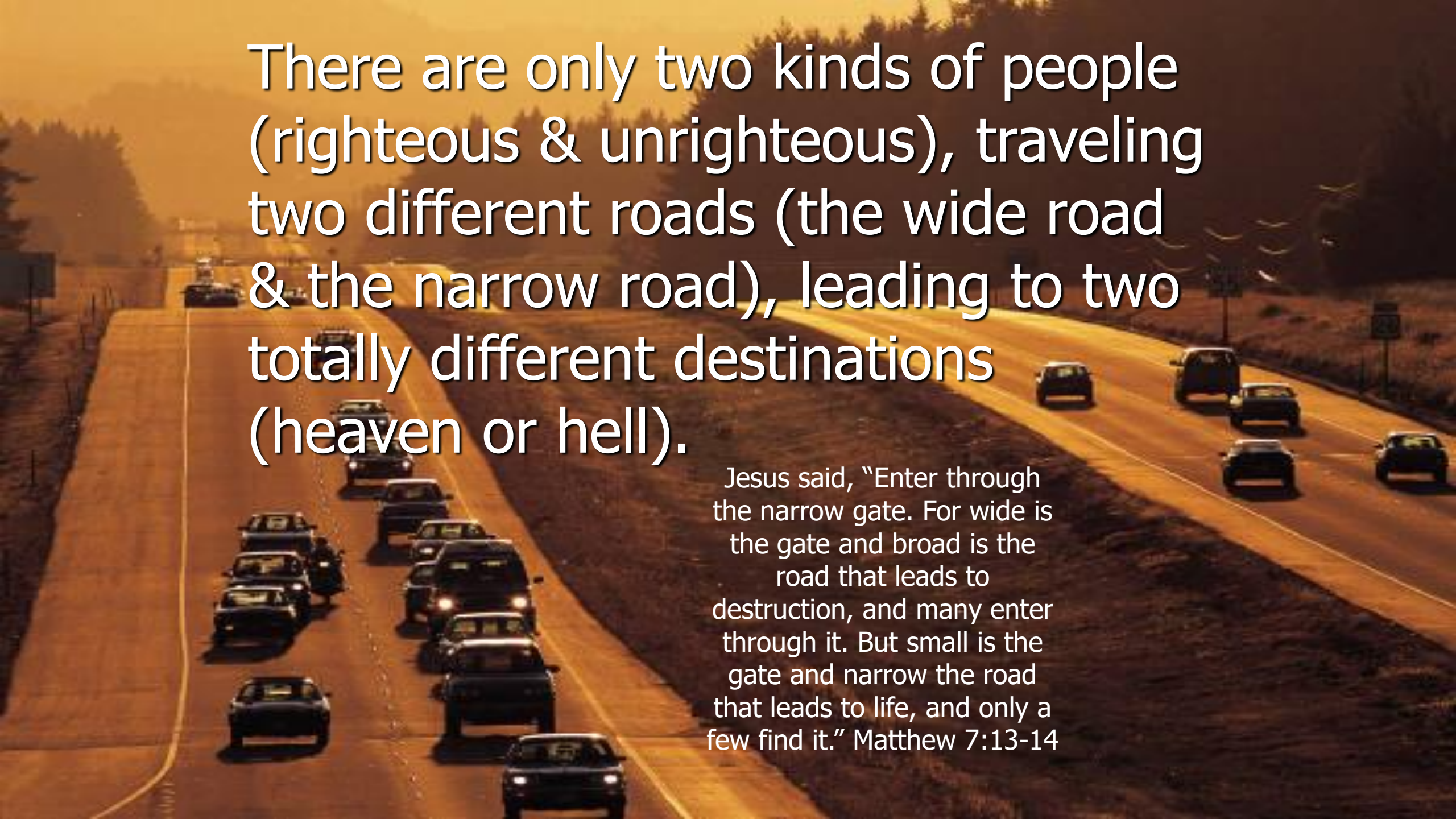
Acts 16:31, 17:30, Romans 10:9-13

5. God's Promise because of the Gospel – **LIFE**

(New life now, Kingdom life soon, Heavenly life forever)

John 10:10, 2 Cor. 5:15-21, Col. 1:13, Rev. 21-22

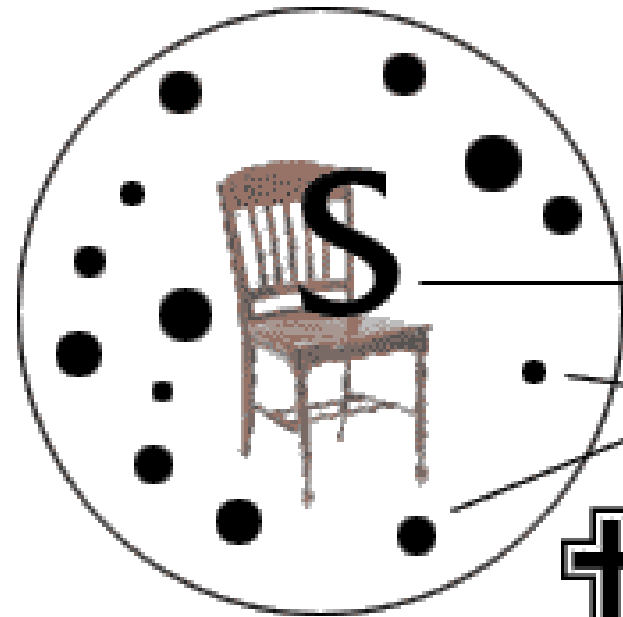
Acts 2:22-36 (The Source of Salvation) ²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- ²³ this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. ²⁴ "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. ²⁵ "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. ²⁶ 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE; ²⁷ BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. ²⁸ 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.' ²⁹ "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, ³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. ³² "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, ³⁵ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'" ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

A wide, multi-lane highway with many cars driving away from the viewer, set against a hazy, golden background. The road is divided into several lanes, and the cars are spread across them, moving towards the horizon. The lighting is warm and atmospheric, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is a metaphor for the 'wide road' mentioned in the text.

There are only two kinds of people (righteous & unrighteous), traveling two different roads (the wide road & the narrow road), leading to two totally different destinations (heaven or hell).

Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14

THE SELF-DIRECTED LIFE



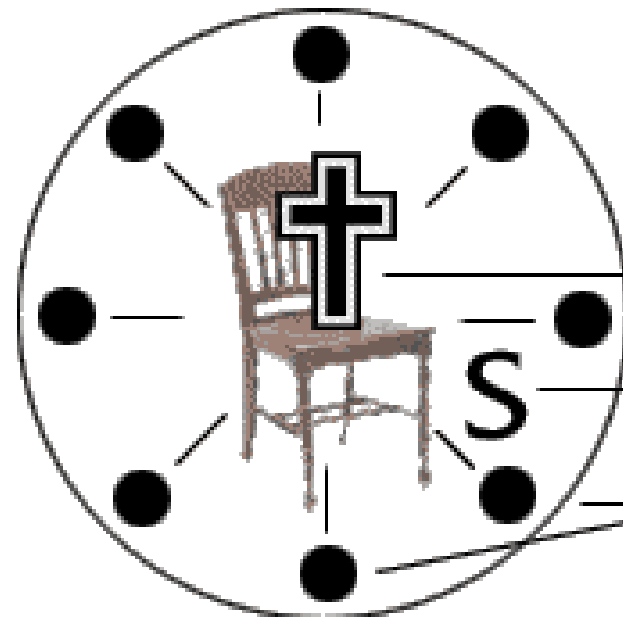
SELF is on the throne

Interests are directed by self, resulting in discord, frustration



Christ is outside the life

THE CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE



CHRIST is on the throne

Self is yielding to Christ

Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

5. The Foundation of God's Word

(The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil)

Out of truth/doctrine flows life – what we believe directs and determines how we live.

Example of Paul: his teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and perseverance outflowed from His faith and knowledge of Scripture

Example of Timothy: His knowledge of the Scripture (sacred writings) that produced in him wisdom that led him to his salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

For all of us – the Bible (All Scripture) is

1. **Inspired/God Breathed** (lit. *theopneustos* means exhaled by God) and therefore because it is from God – profitable for:
 - a. Teaching (instructing in doctrine)
 - b. Rebuking (correcting sin/wayward/wrong)
 - c. Restoring (helping the weak stand up)
 - d. Training in righteousness (right living, maturing a child towards adulthood)
- = **man of God**, adequate, equipped every good work

2 Timothy 3:10-17 ¹⁰ Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Summary on the Critical Importance and Role of the Holy Bible

(2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Heb. 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)

- The critical foundation of God's WORD – *Sola Scriptura* (the Bible alone is our authority and rule for faith and practice). Why is tradition, experience, leaders, and institutions flawed and unreliable to guide us? Because Man is sinful and corrupt but God is holy and perfect... so that the Bible is NOT stories, musings, or myths of imperfect fallen man but the REVELATION of the Holy GOD to sinful men through His Son (John 1:1-5, Heb. 1:1-3) and through inspired men... prophets in the O.T. and apostles in the N.T. (2 Peter 1:19-21, Heb. 1:1-3) ...
- 1. Thus, the Bible is **INSPIRED** (*theopneustos* - God-breathed/lit. exhaled by the breath of God),
- 2. The Bible is **USEFUL** – its utility is not only revealing and explaining God to us (John 1:14-18 – His will, His glory, and His grace), but also useful/profitable (*ophelimos*) for teaching (*didaskalia* – instruction of doctrine), rebuking (*elegmos* – exposing, convicting, reproving), correcting (*epanorthosis* – restoring, setting straight again, helping stand up), and training (*paideia* – rearing, educating, disciplining, and maturing a child),
- 3. The Bible is **INERRANT** (plenary inspiration - perfect in every way and all its parts – every book, every chapter, every verse, and verbal inspiration - every Word is from God as Jesus Himself promised all Scripture even the smallest letter (yod) stroke of the pen (jot and tittle) will be fulfilled (Mt. 5:17-18), the Word of God cannot be broken (John 10:35), and will last forever (Mt. 24:35).
- 4. The Bible is **INFALIBLE** (it will accomplish the purpose God has set and established it for – Is. 55:11),
- 5. The Bible is **CLEAR** (2 Peter 1:19-21),
- 6. The Bible is **SUFFICIENT** (2 Peter 1:3),
- 7. The Bible is **POWERFUL** to change lives as God uses it to save (makes known how we can be saved from God's coming wrath – John 8:32), sanctify (progressively helps us become holy/conformed to Jesus example – John 17:17), sustain (perseveres – gives hope – Romans 15:4), convict (holds us accountable to God's standards – Heb. 4:12-13), guide (leads us to know and follow God's will for our lives – Romans 12:2) and persevere/encourage true believers (gives us an enduring hope to be faithful to the end of our race – 2 Peter 1:5-8).

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

6. The Foundation of God's Church

(The bride of Christ, the body of Christ, the pillar and support of the TRUTH)

Notice the 4 main things the early church was DEVOTED to:

1. The Apostles **Teaching** (Bible Study – Learning New Testament Doctrine)
2. **Fellowship** (Practicing and Enjoying the “One Anothers”)
3. **Communion** - The Breaking of Bread (The Lord's Supper)
4. **Prayer**

The Outcome of this: (5 S's)

1. **Sense** of awe of what God was doing
2. **Sacrifice** (selling and sharing their possessions to meet each other's needs)
3. **Steadfastness** – day by day with One Passion (one mind)
4. **Sincerity** of heart – house to house, meals together
5. **Salvation** – the Lord was adding to their number day by day new converts

Acts 2:42-47 ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The “One Another” Passages The phrase "one another" is derived from the Greek word allelon which means "one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally." It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Obedience to those commands is imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to allelon, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others. With that in mind, the following list is not exhaustive, and primarily focuses on the use of allelon.

POSITIVE COMMANDS

Love one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16x)

Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)

Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)

Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)

Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)

Accept one another (Romans 15:7)

Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)

Greet one another (Romans 16:16)

Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)

Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)

Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)

Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)

Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)

Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)

Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)

Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)

Consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)

Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)

Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)

Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)

Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)

Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)

Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)

Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)

Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)

Pray for one another (James 5:16)

Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

VI. The sixth foundation is God's Church – His ekklesia – the ones He has called out of the world to belong to Him and represent Him. Today we will learn about 7 M's:

1. **Eph. 4:11** - The 3 remaining offices or official **MINISTERS** of the church (Evangelists /Missionaries, Pastors-Teachers/Elders, and Deacons/Servants)
2. **Eph. 4:12** - The **MAIN THINGS** (priorities) of the church (keep the main things the main things) – Pastors/Elders equipping God's people for works of service (Deacons and members servicing), and everyone building up God's people until the whole church is like one mature man who resembles Christ - doctrinally sound and complete (unity of the faith/doctrine/truth – knowledge of the Son of God and stature of the Son of God / fullness of Christ).
3. **Eph. 4:13** - The **MISSION** of the Church (End State/Ultimate Goal of God's people) – HOLINESS!/Christlikeness - a mature man (Fullness of Christ...grow up into all aspects into Christ the head).
4. **Eph. 4:14** - The **MATURITY** of the Church – the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ ...no longer children, weak, naïve, and susceptible to waves and winds of false doctrine, trickery of men by crafty and deceitful scheming. man.
5. **Eph. 4:15** - The **METHOD and MANNER** of the Church (how we are to preach/teach doctrine in the church... preaching the truth in love)
6. **Eph. 4:16** - The **MEANS and MOVEMENT** (growth, progress, advancement) of the church – love one another. Each individual member of the church must contribute, do their part, and be properly/faithfully working to help **John** make the church more beautiful, fruitful, and successful in the Lord's eyes.
7. **John 14:1-3, Rev. 19:7-8, 2 Peter 3:8-14** - The **MASTER and MARRIAGE** of the church – Jesus is the head of the church, the groom, the Lord/Master of the church and He is preparing a house for His bride and has promised to return marry the bride/church and her to His new house.

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1. The 3 remaining offices or official **MINISTERS** of the church **Eph. 4:11**
 - a. Evangelists (Missionaries) **εὐαγγελιστής** *euaggelistes*: an evangelist, a bringer of good news
 - b. Pastors-Teachers (Elders) **ποιμήν** *poimen*: a shepherd, **διδάσκαλος** *didaskalos*: an instructor
 - c. Deacons (Servants) **διάκονος** *diakonos*: a servant, minister

The office/role often corresponds to spiritual gifts (Ex. You have to have the gift of sings, wonders, and miracles to be an apostle, you have to have the gift of prophecy to be a prophet, you have to have the gift of teaching to be an Elder/Pastor, you have to have the gift of helps/serving to be a Deacon). Thus, people's spiritual gifts direct their roles and ministries within the church...as there are 9 remaining spiritual gifts given to members of the church:

From **Romans 12:6-8**: 1. teaching (preaching) 2. serving (helping) 3. exhorting (encouraging) 4. giving (sharing) 5. leading (administrating) and 6. mercy (compassion)

From **1 Cor. 12:7-10**: 7. wisdom (counseling) 8. faith (praying) 9. discernment (warning)

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2. The **MAIN THINGS (priorities)** of the church (keep the main things the main things) **Eph. 4:12** – Pastors/Elders equipping God's people for works of service (Deacons/members servicing), and everyone building up God's people until the whole church is like one mature man who resembles Christ - doctrinally sound and complete (unity of the faith/doctrine/truth – knowledge of the Son of God) and mature like Christ (with the measure and stature of the Son of God / fullness of Christ.)

From **Acts 2:42** The four main priorities of the early church:

- a. apostles teaching (N.T. doctrine/study of the Bible),
- b. fellowship (what we share in common/one anothers),
- c. breaking of bread (communion/Lord's Supper),
- d. prayer

From **Acts 6:4** main priorities of the Apostles (and thus Elders should be)

- a. prayer
- b. the ministry/service of the Word.

From **all of the NT** the TBC membership manual states our Top 10 priorities are the pursuit of 1. love (worship of God, fellowship with believers, evangelism of unbelievers), 2. truth (study and practice of God's Word), 3. obedience (to the Lord's commands/ordinances), 4. prayer (power, perspective, perseverance), 5. Leaders (Biblically qualified Elders and Deacons), 6. Equipping (1 to 1 Discipleship/nouthetic counseling), 7. Membership (Committed/Faithful to One-Anothers), 8. Multiplication (Leadership Development and Church Planting), 9. Missions (global evangelism), 10. Benevolence (meeting the needs of others) out of love/Lordship to Christ.

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3. The **MISSION** of the Church (End State/Ultimate Goal of God's people) **Eph. 4:13** – Holy and Blameless /Christlikeness! (Fullness of Christ...grow up into all aspects into Christ the head).
 - He/God the father choose us in Him/Jesus before the foundation of the world that we would be holy, and blameless, before Him in love (**Eph. 1:4**),
 - put on the new self that God created in righteousness and holiness of the truth (**Eph. 4:24**),
 - present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle...holy and blameless (**Eph. 5:27**),
 - holy, blameless, beyond reproach – complete/mature in Christ (**Col. 1:22-28**),
 - blameless on the day of Christ (**1 Cor. 1:8**),
 - establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God (**1 Thess. 3:13**),
 - found in Him in peace, spotless, and blameless (**2 Peter 3:14**),
 - in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days (**Luke 1:75**),
 - be holy in all your behavior (**1 Peter 1:15**), you shall be holy, for I am Holy (**Lev. 11:44-45, 19:2, 20:7, 26**),

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3. The **MISSION** of the Church (End State/Ultimate Goal of God's people) **Eph. 4:13**
HOLINESS / Christlikeness! (Fullness of Christ...grow up into all aspects into Christ the head).
 - He disciplines us for our good that we may share in His holiness (**Heb. 12:10**),
 - conformed to the image/example of the Son and transformed to the will of God (**Romans 8:29, 12:2**),
 - transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another (**2 Cor. 3:18**),
 - bear the image of the heavenly (**1 Cor. 15:49**),
 - we shall be like Him ...see Him face to face (**John 3:2**),
 - transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body (**Phil. 3:21**),
 - He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified/made holy (**Heb. 10:14**),
 - beloved let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (**2 Cor. 7:1**),
 - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. ²² Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (**2 Tim. 2:21-22**)

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4. The **MATURITY** of the Church **Eph. 4:14** – the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ ...no longer children, weak, naïve, and susceptible to waves and winds of false doctrine, trickery of men by crafty and deceitful scheming.

A discerning church that is always guarding, defending, and fleeing from the lies, temptations, and deceptions of sin and Satan that brings ruins and destruction.

Notice maturity comes from learning and living the truth/doctrine, from unity of the faith (doctrine, beliefs, theology) full knowledge of the Son of God (Christology is key), and imitating Christ's full measure and stature as the ultimate example and icon of the mature man who is ideal, complete, holy, and perfect. (**Matthew 5:48, Eph. 4:13, Col. 1:28-29, 4:12, Heb. 5:14-6:3, James 1:4**)

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5. The **METHOD and MANNER** of the Church (how we are to preach/teach doctrine in the church **Eph. 4:15** ... preaching the truth in love (I realize the context of **Eph. 4:15** is speaking the truth in love as a practice *within* the church – especially by Elders in HOW they teach and preach the Bible to their people. Previously I always used **Eph. 4:15** to remind myself and others of how to speak the gospel to unbelievers – truth in love or as **Col 4:5** having wisdom with gracious speech with outsiders, or as **1 Peter 3:15** said to be ready to defend your hope but with gentleness and respect.)

So our method, our approach, our philosophy of ministry must be an attitude, action, and words that are to be humble, gracious, and with the intent and delivery to build up not tear down, encourage not embarrass, spur on not spot light, and be humble not harsh. We can, should be, must be uncompromising, unequivocating, and unrelenting as far as preaching truth yet gracious, gentle, and joyful in our manner.

(**Jude 1:3** – contending earnestly for the faith/doctrine once for all handed down to the saints) and yet very patient, forbearing, and longsuffering with new Christians, weak Christians, struggling Christians, and overall immature Christians. **1 Thessalonians 5:14** gives a good balance as far as Elders approach or manner - ⁴ We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **Colossians 3:12-14** ¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. **2 Timothy 2:24-26** ²⁴ The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

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6. The **MEANS and MOVEMENT** (growth, progress, advancement) of the church **Eph. 4:16** – love one another.

Each individual member of the church must contribute, do their part, and be properly/faithfully working to help make the church more beautiful, fruitful, and successful in the Lord's eyes. This is accomplished by each person identifying, training, and fully utilizing their spiritual gifts in ministries to make the church as productive, excellent, and glorifying to God as possible. This requires individual parts working together as a team and in teams (fitted and held together, each part/joint of the body doing its role and properly working) – when this happens and as this happens God blesses and causes the church to grow, progress/be built up in LOVE, and advance in its God given missions and ministries.

1 Corinthians 13:13 ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. **Colossians 3:14-17** ¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. **1 Peter 1:22** ²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. **1 Peter 4:8-11** ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. **John 13:34-35** ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **Romans 12:10** ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. **Ephesians 4:2** ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **Hebrews 10:24-25** ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **1 Peter 3:8** ⁸ Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. **1 John 4:7-12** ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. **2 John 1:5-6** ⁵ And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. ⁶ And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

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7. The **MASTER and MARRIAGE** of the church **John 14:1-3, Rev. 19:7-8, 2 Peter 3:8-14** – Jesus is the head of the church, the groom, the Lord/Master of the church and He is preparing a house for His bride and has promised to return marry the bride/church and her to His new house.

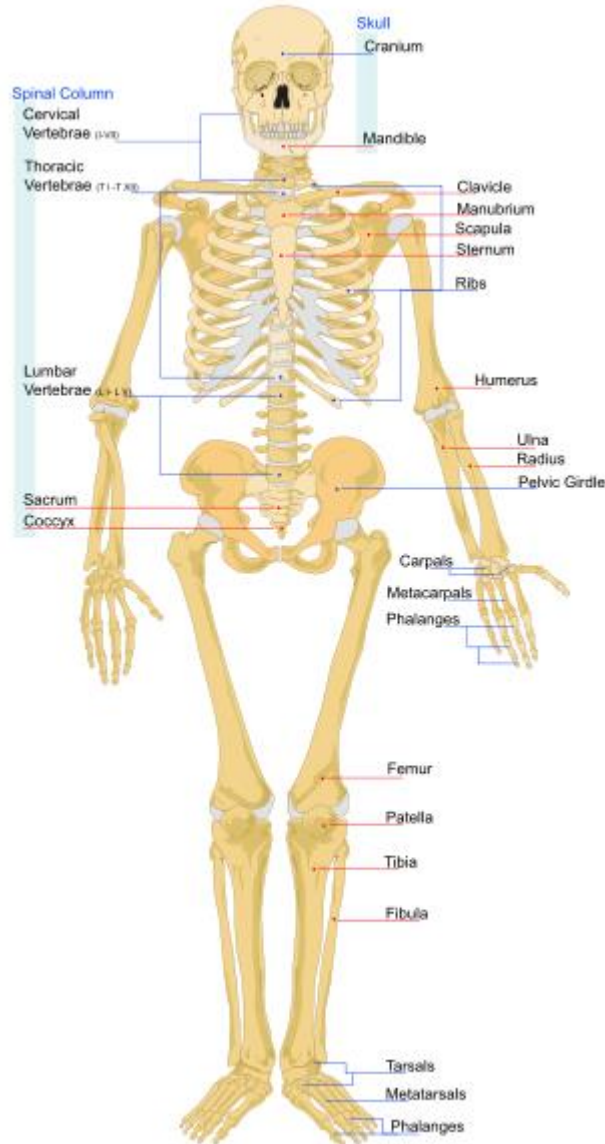
John 14:1-3 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

The wedding supper of the Lamb (Jesus) with His bride the church in **Revelation 19:7-8** depicts our ultimate hope, joy, and expectation to enter and celebrate in the Kingdom of God where we will finally be whole, at peace, and at rest from our struggle with self, sin, Satan, and this fallen/cursed world. It is a consummation and celebration that we should all long for, look for, and prepare for – just as the Lord is preparing even now.

2 Peter 3:8-14 describes the second part of the Kingdom – the New Heavens and Earth that we also look forward to... ⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. ¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

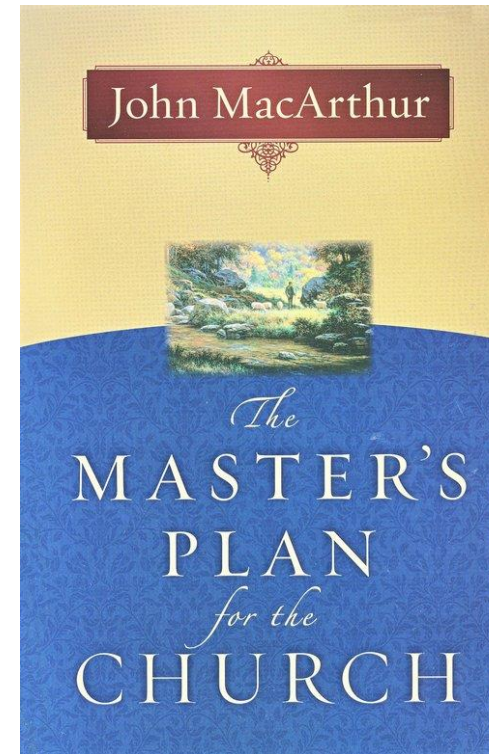
The Anatomy of a Biblical Church

(based on John MacArthur's book "The Master's Plan for the Church")



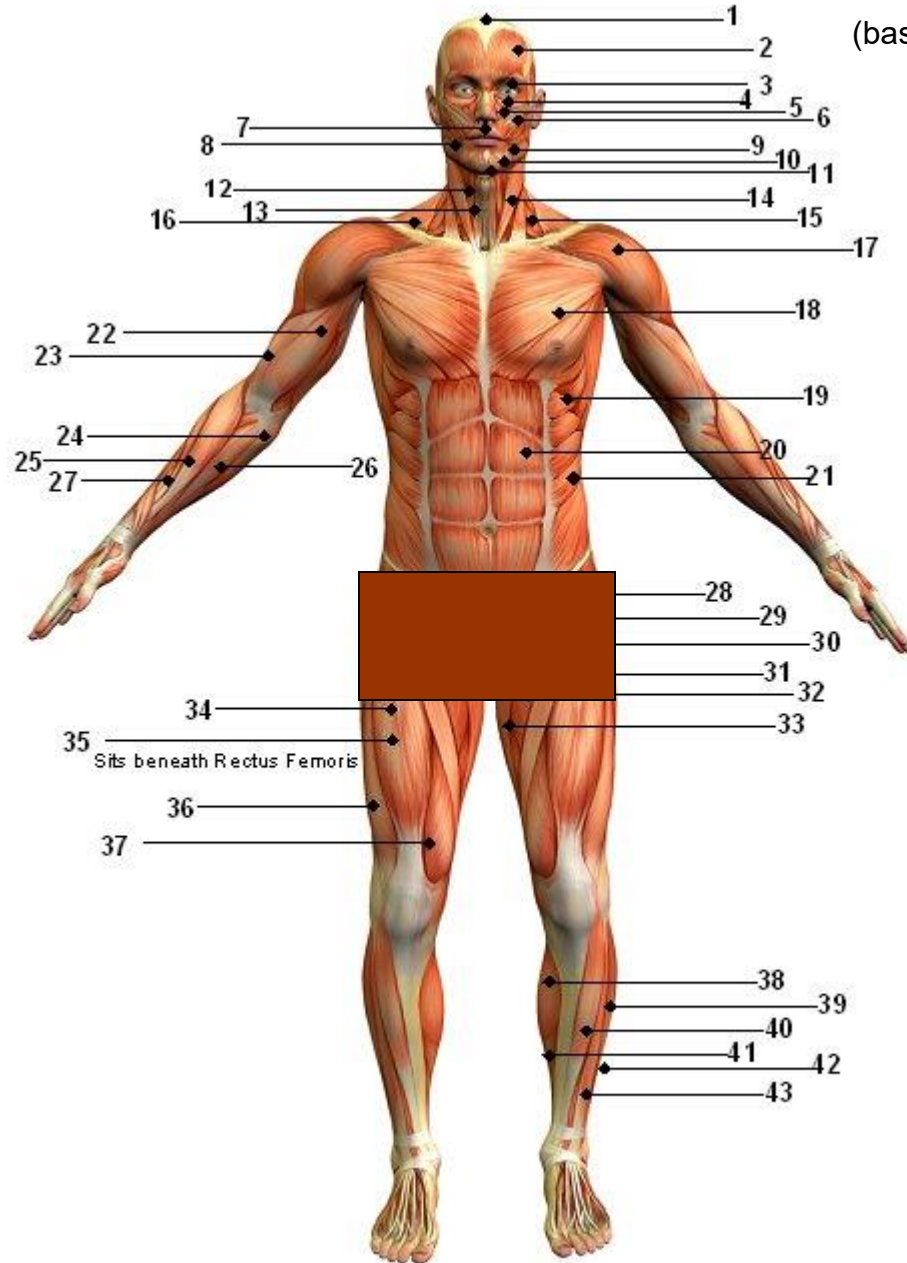
The Skeletal Structure

- A High View of God
- A High View of Scripture
- Sound Doctrine
- Personal Holiness
- Spiritual Authority



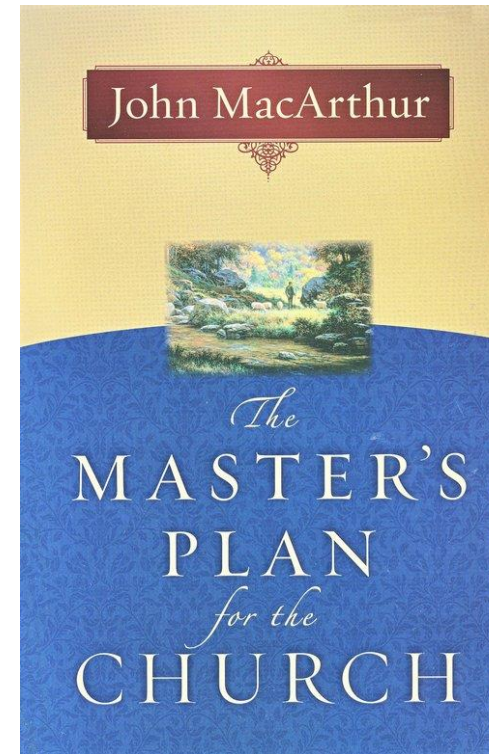
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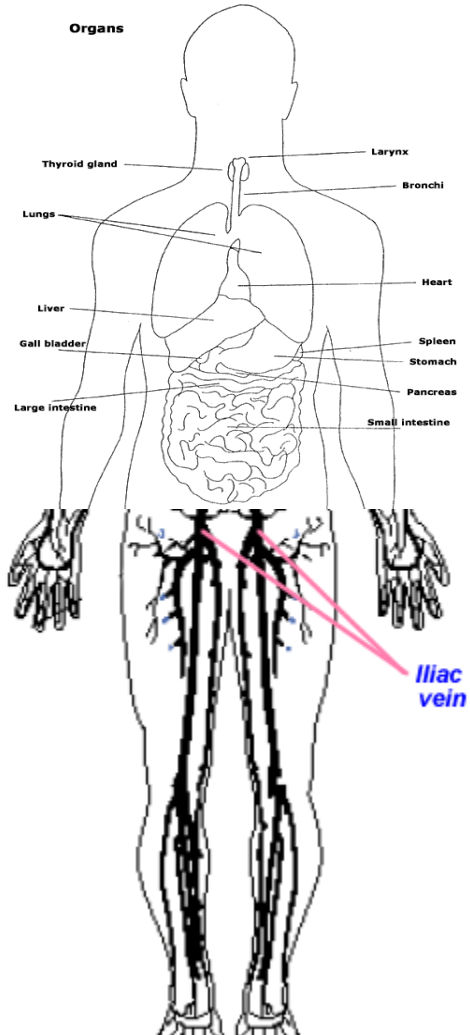
The Muscles

- Preaching/Teaching
- Evangelism/Missions
- Worship
- Prayer
- Discipleship
- Shepherding
- Building Up Families
- Training
- Giving
- Fellowship



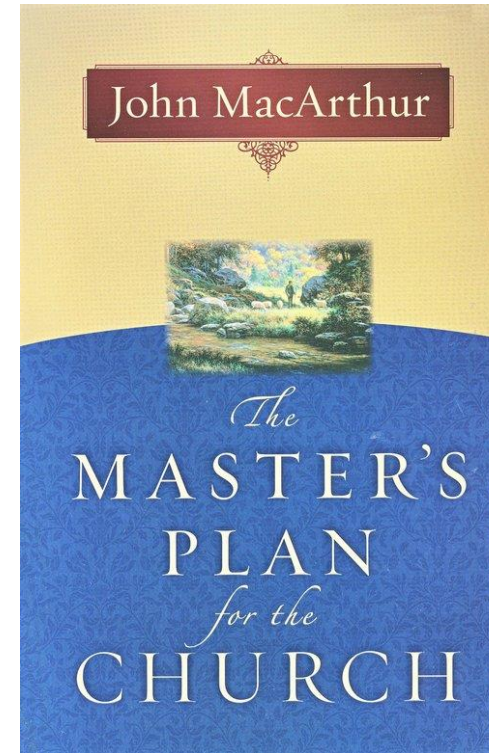
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The Internal Systems

- Obedience
- Humility
- Love
- Unity
- Willingness to Serve
- Joy
- Peace
- Thankfulness
- Self-Discipline
- Accountability
- Forgiveness
- Dependence
- Flexibility
- Desire for Growth
- Faithfulness
- Hope



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The Head



- Jesus Christ our Savior
- Jesus Christ our Shepherd
- Jesus Christ our Sovereign
- Jesus Christ our Sanctifier

Summary: Why did God establish the church?

(Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32)

(Ephesians = Ecclesiology (study of the church))

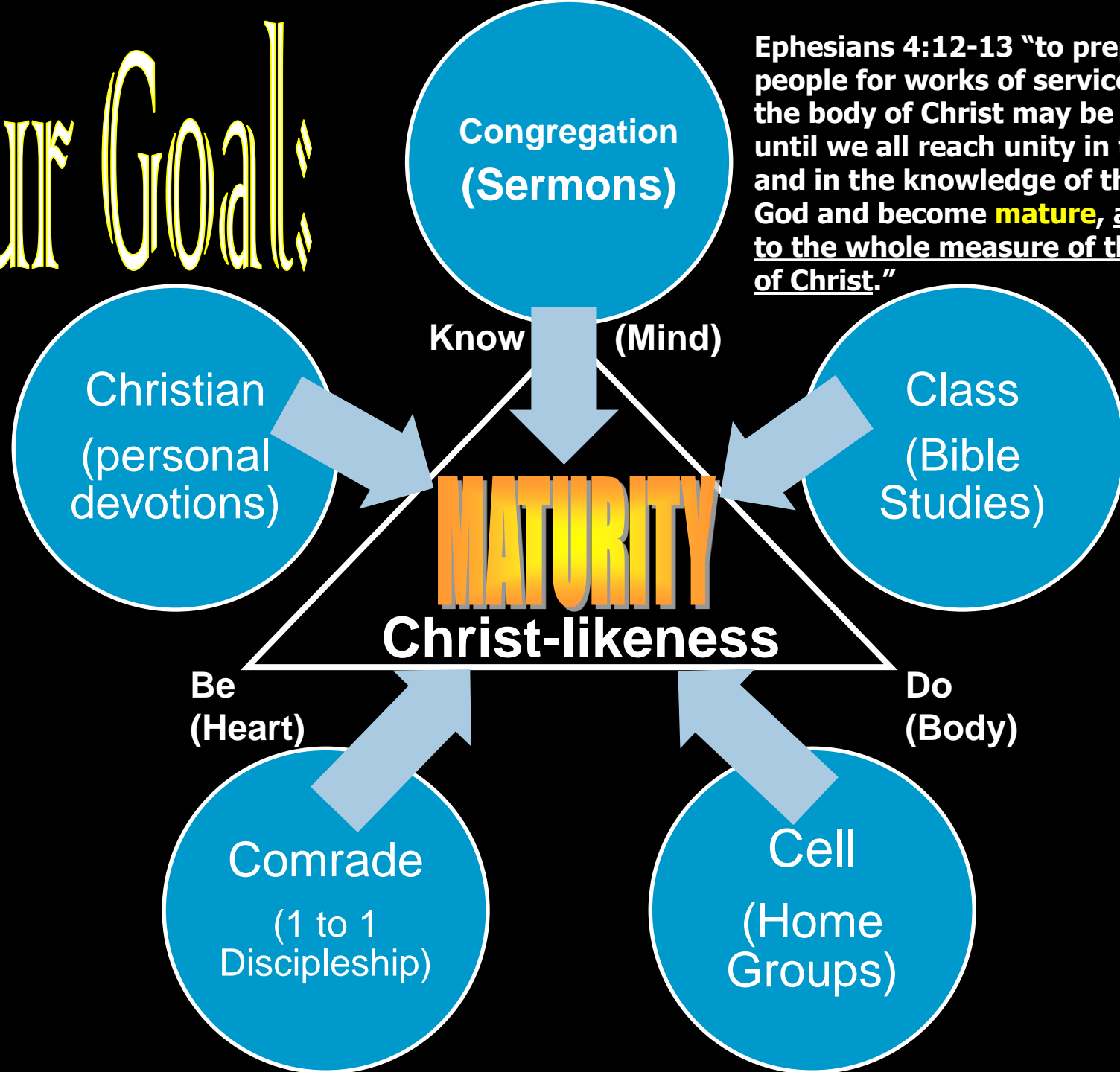
- God's Purpose for the Church – to be the pillar and support of the truth/gospel (1 Tim. 3:15)
- God's Plan/Will for the church – to be holy & blameless before Him in love (Eph. 1:4, 1 Tim 3:15)
- God's Mission for the church (5 E's)
 1. **Equip** /disciple His followers to **MATURITY** - towards EVERY GOOD WORK (Eph. 2:10, 4:12, 2 Tim. 3:17, Heb. 13:21)
 2. **Evangelize** the unbeliever to become true worshippers (1 Cor. 14:24-25)
 3. **Exclaim** /make known the wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10)
 4. **Evaluate** /Judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3).
 5. **Exonerate** /glorify God (Eph. 3:21)
- God's Future for the church – Rapture/Kingdom/Heaven
(John 14:1-3, 1 Thess. 4:13-14, 5:9-10, 1 Cor. 15:51-59)

Is church optional or essential?

- **God Commanded us to be faithful to a local church in Hebrews 10:23-25**
²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
- **Those who truly belong to Christ belong to His church – His body** (1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 1:22, 2:19, 3:6, 4:25, 5:23-30, Col. 1:18-24, 3:15)
- **The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5, Rev. 19)**
What about those who claim to be believers but don't go to church?
- **A Sign of unbelief is leaving the fellowship of believers altogether (1 John 2:19)**
- **The H.S. guides us into truth and obedience,** – which will always lead towards (not away from) the preaching and teaching Biblical churches, including the practice of all the "one Anothers" commands (1 Tim. 4:12, John 21:15-17, Titus 2:15, 1 Peter 5:2-3, Acts 20:28)

Our Goals

Ephesians 4:12-13 "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."



Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Baptism *Identification*

Therefore
go and make disciples
of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching
them to obey everything I have
commanded you. And surely I am with
you always, to the very end of
the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you

Obedience
Sanctification

Make disciples of all nations

Gospel
Justification

I am with you always - to the end of the age

Kingdom *Glorification*

Why is Church Membership Important?

- **Commanded** in the Bible (1 Peter 5:5, 1 Cor. 16:16, Hebrews 13:17)
(spiritual gifts and belonging/edifying the body of Christ – 1 Cor. 12., Romans 12)
- **Implied** in the Bible (Acts 2:41, 2:47, 4:4, 5:14, 6:1, 6:7, 9:31, 11:21, 11:24, 14:1, 16:5, 17:12)
- **Practical** - We need each other - there is strength, growth, encouragement, accountability, and protection in the body (Ecclesiastes 4:10)
- **Essential** - We are stronger, more effective together (Eph. 4:16)
- **Productive** - We are weak, ineffective by ourselves - Satan seeks to isolate us, keep us from worship, fellowship, and service (1 Peter 5:8-11)
- **Part of the PROOF/evidence** that we are saved – desire for worship, service, fellowship – to love the things that God loves – His praise, His people (1 John 3:10-24, 4:20-5:4)

The CHURCH is ESSENTIAL

Why is church so important?

- God knows we are weak by ourselves, but strong together (**Ecc. 4:9-10**). He has commanded us to meet each others needs (Rom. 12:13, 1 Tim. 5:16, 1 John 3:17), bear each others burdens (**Gal. 6:2, Col. 3:13**), spur/encourage each other on towards love and good deeds (**Heb. 10:24, 1 Thes. 5:11**), serve one another (**Gal. 5:13**), and to pray for on another (**James 5:16, Eph. 6:18**).
- Satan usually tempts and deceives us in isolation (Matthew 4) and vehemently sows deception (**John 8:44, 2 Cor. 11:14, 2 Thes. 2:9-10, Rev. 12:9-10**) disunity (**James 3:13-16**), and discouragement (**Mt. 13:39**) within the church because he is like a roaring lion (**1 Peter 5:8**)
- It is God's will that everyone be protected through submission to spiritual leadership (**Hebrews 13:17, Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23**)

CONCLUSION:

The church is the bride of Christ and part of God's authority structure, body of fellowship, and mouthpiece of the gospel designed to give God glory. Through the church God nourishes us towards optimum spiritual health, protects us, and prepares us to enjoy eternity with him. God designed the church to be a body that truly loves and serves one another like he served and loved us so that we might have a healthy relationship with Him and one another. Thus, the body of Christ is the means for us to enjoy God's provision, protection, and proficiency of God's family and chain of command.

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching)

(1 Timothy 4:12-13, 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15)

Paul's emphatic commission/Pastoral charge to Timothy

1. Preach the Word when it's popular and when it's unpopular

Notice we are not to preach ourselves but the Word – specifically Christ Crucified (1 Cor. 1:23) and Jesus as Lord (2 Cor. 4:5) NOT self-help, self-improvement, not entertainment, not human wisdom, not human philosophy, not human psychology, not anecdotal stories, not political jargon, not feel good stories, and not positive thinking.

2 Timothy 4:1-8 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching)

(1 Timothy 4:12-13, 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15)

- God's preachers and teachers must be Biblically qualified according to 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1 – NOT new believers, not good discussion leaders, not popular, rich, or successful men, not theological novices, nor unstudied men who don't know and practice Biblical hermeneutics, and not men who don't have the time to really exegete/extract the real meaning/interpretation of God's Word.

- Good/Biblical Pastors (Shepherds) not only mend, tend, fend, and send – but they also Love God, Love His Word, Love their families, Love their Sheep/God's family the Church, Love the lost – lead by example in evangelism, and overall set a good example for the flock/church – not perfectly but faithfully. So they are qualified, genuine, and also faithful, but also tough/spiritual fighters, not quitters, but speaking the oracles/words of God and serving with the strength God provides (1 Peter 4:11) so that they overall FULFILL THEIR GOD-GIVEN MINISTRY as they wait and long for Jesus' appearing.

(Pray as we look for such men to be our next youth Pastor and Calvert Campus Pastor)

2 Timothy 4:1-8 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

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The last foundation of a Biblical church are the Leaders of the church – the Shepherds/Pastors/Elders who must preach the Word (Kerusso – preach, proclaim, herald, announce, tell everyone/everywhere)

1. Preach the Word no matter the response (ready ...little take a stand...in season and out of season – preaching when the truth is popular or not popular, in times of peace or times of persecution, in times of growth/progress and times of decline/scattering. (Here in the text is a prophecy predicting hardest times ahead when people will not put up with sound doctrine but turn to false teachers who tickle their ears (tell them what they want to hear instead of what they need to hear), turn to topics centered around their own selfish, worldly desires/felt needs, and turn from the truth of God to the speculations/myths/musings of men.

2. Preach the Word in the following ways for various effects on various people:

- a. Reproving – elegcho - expose, bring to light, convict, convince, correct, refute, show fault
- b. Rebuking – epitimao – appraise, sternly telling and warning, strongly admonishing
- c. Exhorting – parakaleo – call alongside, summon, call for, invite, earnestly ask, implore, appeal, beg, urge, encourage (with great patience and instruction)

3. Preach always with a right mind (pure heart) (nepho – abstain from wine...sober in all things - free from substance abuse, free from sin/discouragement and deception it brings to our minds, free from worry/lack of faith and prayer, free from dependence on ourselves or human sources - mere human logic, philosophy, principles, traditions rather than the mind/words of Christ (**Col. 2:8**). Friberg: free from every form of mental and spiritual excess and confusion – to be self-controlled, clear-headed, and self-possessed.

4. Preach knowing there will be hardship (kakopatheo – to suffer evil, affliction) and enduring it – little respect/appreciation, harsh criticisms, complete rejection/loss of friendship and relationship, gossip and slander, persecution on various levels - loss of things/confiscation, loss of freedoms - imprisonment, and even loss of life - death.

5. Preach doing the hard work of an evangelist (ergon – to work, from erdo (to do), (bringer of good news, announcer/messenger of the good – prefix eu and root angelos – messenger/angel)

6. Preach to fulfill your God given ministry (plerophoreo – to bring in full measure, to fulfill, bear/bring forth constantly to fullness) (diakonia – service, ministry...Friberg serving God in a special task, office, ministry) and be faithful to God.

7. Preach to be rewarded by God – 2 Timothy 4:8 ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's Glory (Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone) (1 Corinthians 3:4-15, Romans 11:36)
2. The Foundation of God's Son (Jesus our Cornerstone–100% Deity & Humanity)(Colossians 1:13-18,1 Peter 2:2-7)
3. The Foundation of God's Spirit (Prayer – Power, Perspective, Perseverance) (Colossians 1:9-12, 4:2)
4. The Foundation of God's Gospel (The Good News of Jesus Life, Death, & Resurrection = Righteousness, Forgiveness, & Eternal Life IF one is believing in Jesus through repentance, faith, and Lordship) (Acts 2:22-32, Romans 3:20-26)
5. The Foundation of God's Church (The Body & Bride of Christ – the pillar and support of the truth) (Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32)
6. The Foundation of God's Word (The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil) (2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)
7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching) (1 Timothy 4:12-13, 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15)

SO WHAT?

Application



Ephesians 5:22-30 ²² Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ **so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word**, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body.

Dear Lord, by your grace and power, bless TBC to be built on the Biblical foundations we have studied over the last 5 weeks. Build this church on the foundations of 1. your great glory Father, for from you and through you and to you are all things – to YOU be the glory forever! (Romans 11:36), 2. may your Son Jesus always be our chief cornerstone who has the supremacy in everything we think, say, and do in this church (Col. 1:8) , 3. move us to be more devoted to prayer by your Holy Spirit so we can gain your perspective, power, and perseverance as we are filled by you to walk worthy of you (Col. 1:9-11), 4. help us to be wise master builders like Paul who are experts in sharing your gospel and faithful to your Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8), 5. Oh Lord grant us a greater love of your Word that seeks to learn it and live it out so that we treasure your Holy Word like David in Psalm 119, 6. Jesus, make us a beautiful and successful church in your eyes, a holy and blameless bride, and a mature body who is faithful to you as our Head as we seek to uphold and display you and your truth to the world (1 Tim. 3:15), and finally 7. graciously continue to empower and work through your Pastors/under shepherds at TBC – sustain the Elders and Deacons of this church to preach the Word and equip the saints for service, until we ALL are holy, blameless, and presented before you in love. Until then progress each us towards Biblical maturity until we as a local church are like one man/one body who resembles you in all your measure of greatness and stature of holiness! ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

Practical Application:

So How Should a Christian choose a church?

What NOT to do... don't use the typical criteria that many/most Christians unknowingly and unbiblically follow: Do I like the Pastor, do I like the music, do I like the building, do I like the programs, do I like the people (I, I, I, I, I = consumer mentality, but rather pray Lord where do YOU want me, where can I and my family best serve YOU and grow in our faith for YOU, not my will but your will be done)

So LOOK for, TEST and EVALUATE a church on the following criteria:

1. Truth/Doctrine – which church is most in line with Scripture and best believes, teaches, and practices the Bible (High View of God/High View of Scripture). Practically the first thing you should do before visiting a church is read their doctrinal statement online or ask for a printed copy of their statement of faith (if they don't have their doctrine as the first thing on online or onsite – not good)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

2. Philosophy of Ministry – before joining a church ask to meet with one of the Pastors/Elders (if they are too busy to meet – not good) and ask them questions about their philosophy of ministry – what's the most important, what their priorities are, and how they go about pursuing/accomplishing them (that will tell you a lot of about them and the church). The priorities should be in line with Acts 2:42:

- **Doctrine** (Declaring God's truth by preaching through books of the Bible learn and live the whole counsel of God's will)
- **Worship** (Presenting ourselves before God with sincere hearts to gratefully and passionately glorify the One true Triune God)
- **Fellowship** (Practicing of the One Anothers with Selfless Love, Compassion, Kindness, Service to others)
- **Prayer** (Seeking earnestly and regularly God's Power, Perspective, Perseverance in our lives & ministry)
- **Gospel** (Sharing God's Gracious Plan of salvation with concern for the Eternity of all people by faithful and fruitful evangelism)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

3. Personal Example/Biblical Qualifications of the Elders and Deacons.

Also ask them about their personal relationship/walk with the Lord - what I call the Big 5:

1. Their relationship with God (devotional life)
2. Their relationship with their spouse (married life)
3. Their relationship with their children (family life)
4. Their relationship with their sheep/people (church life)
5. Their relationship with the lost (evangelism life)

(If they don't have a healthy/vibrant relationship with God neither will the church...if they don't Biblically lead/manage their own homes well they won't manage the church any better). The spiritual health of the church will usually resemble the health of the Pastor and his family unless the church is apathetic and rebellious against his preaching/example.

1 Timothy 3:5 ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

4. Holy Living/Progressive Sanctification and Obedience of the Congregation

Do you see in the church as a whole...

1. The People regularly **WITNESSING** /sharing their faith, evangelizing the lost (new people being saved, baptized, and added to the church – spiritual multiplication/reproduction - Acts 1:8, 2:41,47 5:14, 6:1,7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5, 19:20)
2. The People regularly **PRAYING** for the lost, praying for each other, seeking God's will - His power, His perspective, His perseverance – Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4)
3. The People regularly **FELLOWSHIPPING**, practicing the one anothers, and enjoying their closest friendships within the church – Acts 2:42, Hebrews 13:16.
4. The People regularly **STUDYING** and growing in their knowledge and practice of the Holy Scriptures privately (personal devotions) and corporately (Congregation, Class, Cell, Comrade, and Christian settings) (Goal to learn and live out the truth of God's Word – Acts 6:4, 2 Peter 3:18).
5. The People progressively **OBEYING** the commands of Jesus in the N.T. (Acts 5:29, Mt. 28:18-20) so that others can see a growing Christlikeness/holiness/difference in their marriage, family, conduct at work, service/contribution within the church, and outreach/Christian witness to the unsaved world around them. (Goal to be rounding the bases – 1st base/conversion, 2nd base/baptism, 3rd base/membership & maturity, Home base – death, rapture, Kingdom, Heaven)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

5. Their overall goals, motives, and mission statement

(how do they define success, who are they trying to please, who are what are they striving for)

Do you see in the church as a whole...

1. A Focus on man vs a focus on God
2. A Focus on money vs Christian maturity
3. A Focus on buildings/facilities vs the true temples (people's souls that last forever)
4. A Focus on success by what man sees/thinks/wants (numbers, buildings, programs, popularity, influence) vs what God sees/thinks/wills (new people saved, new people baptized, new people disciplined/equipped towards Christlike maturity)
5. A Focus on the Culture vs a Focus on Scripture
6. A Focus on the Temporary vs a Focus on the Kingdom/Eternity
7. A Focus on Self vs a focus on the Savior