

## Pastor's Welcome Class

### Lesson 5 Key

#### *The Benefits of Involvement with the Local Church*

I. Intro. In this lesson we will talk about the benefits of involvement in the local church.

## II. Six Spiritual Benefits of Involvement in the Local Church."

A. Spiritual Benefit 1: You will be fed the Word of God.

1. (Matt. 4:4 NKJV) <sup>4</sup>*But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'*

2. (Jer. 23:4 NKJV) <sup>4</sup>*"I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD.*

B. Spiritual Benefit 2: You will be strengthened by Christian fellowship.

1. (Acts 2:42 NKJV) <sup>42</sup>*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

2. (2 Tim. 2: 22 NKJV) <sup>22</sup>*Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

C. Spiritual Benefit 3: You will experience the supernatural benefits of redemption.

1. (Acts 2:42 NKJV) <sup>42</sup>*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

2. (Acts 5:4-16 NKJV) <sup>16</sup>*Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.*

D. Spiritual Benefit 4: You will learn to pray and have intimate communion with God.

1. (Acts 1:14a NKJV) <sup>14</sup>*These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication...*

2. (Matt. 21:13 NKJV) <sup>13</sup>*And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "*

E. Spiritual Benefit 5: Your soul will be cared for by a pastor.

1. (Heb. 13:17 NKJV) <sup>17</sup>*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

F. Spiritual **Benefit 6**: You will be equipped to serve in the church in line with your God given gifts.

1. (Eph. 4:11, 12 NKJV) *<sup>11</sup>And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

### III. Membership in the Universal Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. The term "church" means a calling out. The church is the assembly of the called out ones. (1 Pet. 2:9 NKJV) *<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

B. The universal church refers to all believers in Christ presently on earth and in heaven as well as all of those who will become believers in Christ in the future.

C. There is only one way to become a member of the universal church of the Lord Jesus Christ. You must be born into God's family. (John 3:3 NKJV) *<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

D. The moment you receive Jesus as Lord in your heart, you become a member of the universal church, and your name is written in heaven. (Heb. 12:23 NKJV) *<sup>23</sup>to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.*

E. The Bible also teaches membership in a local church, which is the expression of the universal church in each community on earth. (Acts 2:46, 47 NKJV) *<sup>46</sup>So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

F. In the Book of Acts we see that believers were being added not only to the universal church, but also to the life and ministry of the local church.

### IV. How to become a member of the Local Church.

A. The Bible teaches that God sets the members in the local church. (1 Cor. 12:18 NKJV) *<sup>18</sup>But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.*

B. Jesus speaks to believers' hearts where He wants them to be. (John 10:27 NKJV) *<sup>27</sup>"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

C. Once you know in your heart where Jesus wants you to be, then make a commitment to that church. Be set in the church. Put down some roots and grow. You can't grow by being continually transplanted.

D. In our next lesson we will talk about membership at Cornerstone Church Amarillo.

V. The Bible teaches that believers are to maintain the habit of regularly assembling together.

A. (Heb. 10:24,25 NKJV) *24And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

B. We are not to quit gathering together regularly.

C. We are to increase gathering together as the coming of Jesus approaches.

D. The purpose for gathering together is so we can continually be exhorted and encouraged as we follow Jesus Christ until He comes again.