



WHAT KIND OF CHURCH IS THIS?

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Part 1

May 7, 2023

The Gospel of Saint Mark 16:14-20, ¹⁴Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they

will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.”

May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word, In Jesus Name! Amen!

What Kind of Church is this? (Focus of this Series)

1. We are the Kind of Church that believes in the Mission of the Gospel!

- a. The Gospel of Saint Matthew 24:9-14, “⁹Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

- b. Friends, the Return of Christ is directly connected to the Church rallying to ensure that the Message of the Cross goes around the World and then the end shall come!
- c. Notice verse 14 with me! **“¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”**
- d. Shout the “whole world”! All of it! Not just in the Bible Belt!
- e. WE, as The Assembly West Monroe, believes firmly in global outreach and support of the Gospel to go around the world!
- f. This is why we do all that we do with our virtual ministries of television, YouTube, Instagram, tictok, Facebook and our website! This is the reason why all of my notes are free and available for your access at any time!
- g. Friends, though it may be the Father only who knows the day and the hour of the return of the Lord, we have a responsibility to His Commission until He comes! May we endure! May we stand! May we remain faithful! Until He Comes!
- h. Remember, **We are the Kind of Church that believes in Missions in every way and means that we are able to partner with! Church the King is Coming! May we be a part of Preparing the Way!**
- i. Point #2!

2. We are the Kind of Church that believes in Personal Evangelism!

- a. We take personal ownership of reaching others with the Message of the Cross!
- b. Friends, The Invitation of the Gospel is come as you are, The Promise of the Gospel is you will not stay as you are, but The Power of the Gospel is you will be transformed from who you were to who He has called you to be!
- c. We must place an emphasis on passionately pursuing and achieving an eternal impact in the lives of people and our community!
- d. Our Goal is to build His church (His People) and not our church; and we will accomplish this goal by seeing the value of investing our lives in to other people.
- e. For some of you, your greatest mission field to walk out the Great Commission is your home! Notice what the Apostle Peter had to say on this subject as well in 1 Peter 3:1-2, “Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ²when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”

- f. And this can be easily applied for both parties because there are husbands under the sound of my voice who have unbelieving wives and there are wives under the sound of my voice who have unbelieving husbands. You can see your spouses converted by living for Jesus in your home and in your relationship with them! You can lead them to Christ if you will see the value in Christ leading you to love your spouse the way Christ loves you.
- g. Church, we must remember that we are the kind of Church that believes in Personal Evangelism and this should be found in every area of our lives! Point #3!

3. We are the Kind of Church that believes in Reaching our Community with the Gospel!

- a. A Faith Community making an impact on the Community that it is in!
- b. We must bear the responsibility not only to God but also to one another to ensure that the Great Commission maintains the central theme and focus in our local body.
- c. The greatest sermons ever preached are not the ones found to be preached behind a pulpit but rather lived every day with Christ at the center of all that we do!

- d. 2 Corinthians 3:1-2 declares, “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some *others*, epistles of commendation to you or *letters* of commendation from you? ²You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; ³clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart.”
- e. We are living Epistles known and read of all men; Men will read our lives long before they will ever read their Bibles!
- f. A Church that values the Great Commission will Value Its Community and those who dwell within it!
- g. 1 Peter 4:8-11, “⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

- h. The imperatives of this passage are abundantly clear when viewed through the lenses of selflessness: love one another, show hospitality, use your gifts for others, be good stewards, speak Words that empower and impact, serve one another, do all by the Strength of Christ and not your own.
- i. The First Century Church saw the value of its faith community as well as the communities around them!
- j. Church family, I am all for foreign missions, mission trips, and supporting global initiatives but we must not exchange our responsibility to live for Christ daily for simple financial support of others to do something that Christ has called us to do ourselves.
- k. There's a mission's field in your home, on the job, when you buy groceries. There's a mission's field when you go to the ball field, visit the doctor's office or order fast food.
- l. Christ has called us to Represent Him every moment of every day and I challenge us all to realize that there is a dying world out there that needs to see a pure and powerful demonstration of the Love of Christ amongst His believers!
- m. What Kind of Church are We? We are Church that takes the Great Commission to Heart and does the Work of Christ in the Earth!