



### A Working Definition of the Church ....

"A group of Christians who assemble as an earthly embassy of Christ's heavenly kingdom, to affirm one another as his citizens through the ordinances. To proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King, to display God's own holiness & love through a unified and diverse people; as they follow the teaching and example of the pastors/elders & overseers.

> The church first began by the word of God. It wasn't just a group of people who were feeling down and out after Jesus died. Instead, the church exists *because* of the word of God.

\* John 1:1 - "*In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*"

### A Challenge to Begin This Sermon:

~ There is a difference between knowing & believing. There is also a difference between belief and *belief*.

~ c.f. James 2:19 - "Even the demons believe - and they shudder!"

~ The demons know who He is and even call him the "Holy One of God" \*Mark 1:24.

~ Does the devil believe in Jesus and believe that God raised him from the dead? **Yes!** \*2 Corinthians 4:4

~ Believing in something should lead to action ... \*Romans 10:9

~ Paul used OT wording in Romans 10:9 - c.f. Deuteronomy 30:14

> Believing in God's Word is extremely important. Not just *individually*, but corporately; together as a church.

## **We Believe the Bible Because All of Scripture Is..**

I. \_\_\_\_\_ by God

A Couple of "Uninspired" Examples ..

~ The Quran - Mohammad (AD 570-673)

~ The Book of Mormon - Joseph Smith (early 1800's)

> When we say inspired by the Holy Spirit, we mean the Bible is inspired in the original autographs. The Bible was written over 1,500 years from many different authors; they all contained a unity in thought and all of them matched what the another author was saying or writing.

### > Biblical Examples Prove Good Points:

~ Romans 16:21-22 - "I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord." ..... it appears as if Paul's assistant wrote the letter.

~ Is Paul inspired or is Tertius inspired? Does the validity of the letter disappear because Paul didn't actually write the letter with his own hand? The ANSWER = \_\_\_\_\_

II. Effective for \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

~ We as Christians, should want and earnestly desire God's word to be lifted high because it alone is what brings about change! (c.f. Genesis 1)

III. \_\_\_\_\_ to Make Christians \_\_\_\_\_ Complete

~ Jesus himself was and is perfect...meaning complete. He lacked nothing. His Word therefore is the same!

a) We are to \_\_\_\_\_ in the Word of God  
(vs. 14)

b) We are to \_\_\_\_\_ our Children in the Word of God  
(vs. 15a)

c) The Word of God Makes Salvation \_\_\_\_\_ Through  
\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 15b)