

The Doctrine of the Church



The Meaning of the Word “Church”

A close-up photograph of a weathered stone surface. A rectangular recessed area is carved into the stone, containing two lines of text. The text is engraved in a serif font and is a reddish-brown color. The stone is heavily textured and shows signs of age and wear, with some darker spots and a rough, uneven surface. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the stone.

I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH
MATTHEW 16:18

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”





“And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”





“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (petros – small stone or rock), and upon this rock (petra – massive foundational stone or rock) I will build my church.”



Petros

(Pebble)



Petra

(Bedrock)

The image depicts a hellish, fiery landscape. In the foreground, two stone towers with conical roofs stand on either side, each with a small fire burning in a niche. The background is a vast, fiery expanse with a large, glowing, multi-eyed creature or structure in the center, emitting a bright light. The overall scene is filled with fire and a sense of intense heat and torment.

*"...and the gates of hell shall
not prevail against it."*

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6

BELT OF TRUTH

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

HELMET OF SALVATION

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

GOALS OF PEACE

SHIELD OF FAITH

Bill O'Neil



- Warfare (**STRATEIA**) -To carry on hostilities; to engage in battle; to contend, to strive; to be in a state of hostile contention - *I Tim. 1:18; II Tim. 2:1-3*
- Fight (**AGONIZOMAI**) -To gain control through struggle; to attempt to defeat; subdue or destroy in order to gain victory - *I Cor. 9:26; I Tim. 6:12*
- Wrestle (**PALE**) - To struggle in hand to hand combat with an opponent in an attempt to throw or force him to the ground - *Eph. 6:10-18*
- Strive (**SUNATHLEO**) - To make great effort to do ones best; strenuous exertion; earnest effort - *I Cor. 9:24-25; II Tim 2:5*
- Soldier (**STRATIOTES**) - One engaged in military service; one who fights for a specified cause - *II Tim. 2:3-4*
- Contend (**EPAGONIZOMAI**) - To hold firm to the truth; to strive in debate - *Jude 3-9*

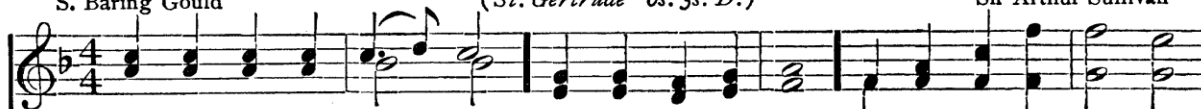
Onward, Christian Soldiers

I72

S. Baring Gould

(St. Gertrude bs. 5s. D.)

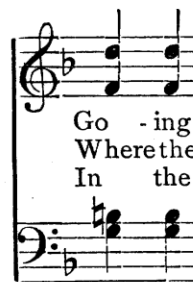
Sir Arthur Sullivan



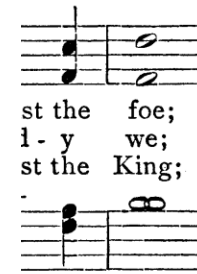
1. On-ward, Chris-tian sol - diers, March-ing as to war, With the cross of Je - sus
 2. Like a might - y ar - my, Moves the Church of God; Broth-ers, we are tread - ing
 3. On-ward, then, ye peo - ple, Join our hap-py throng; Blend with ours your voi - ces



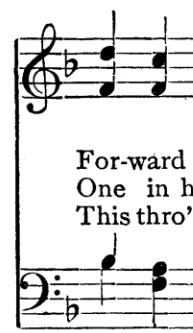
ONWARD CHRISTIAN



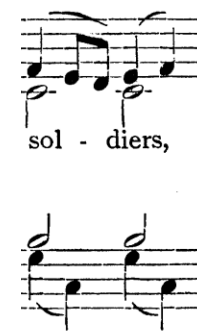
Go - ing
Where the
In the



st the foe;
l - y we;
st the King;



For-ward
One in h
This thro'



sol - diers,

SOLDIER



Marching as to war, With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.
war, With the cross of Je - sus





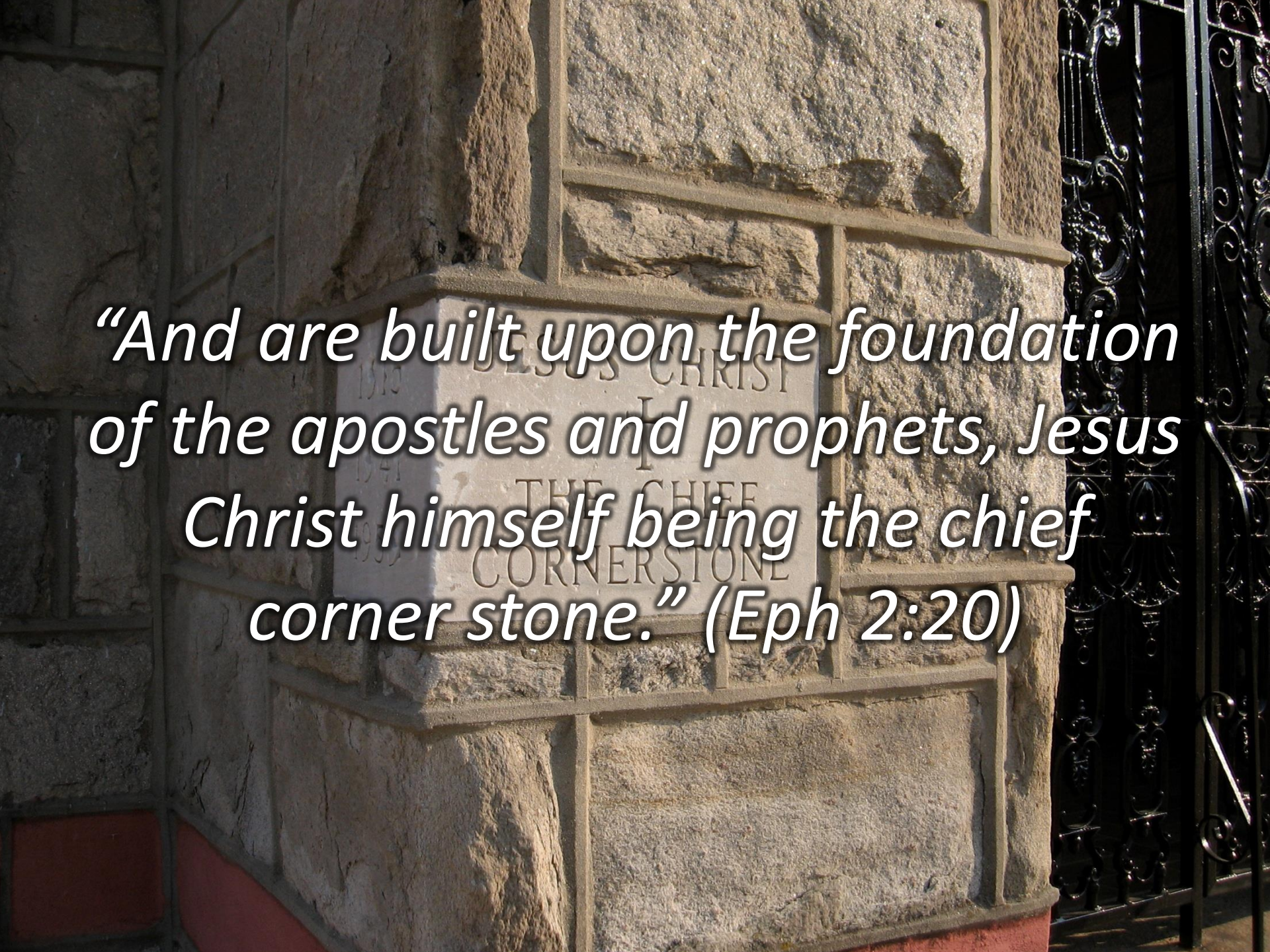
UNLESS THE LORD

BUILDS THE HOUSE

“Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it.” (Psalm 127:1)

*“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.”
(1 Cor. 3:10)*



A photograph of a stone wall with a decorative iron gate. A plaque is mounted on the wall, featuring a cross and the text 'JESUS CHRIST THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE'. Overlaid on the image is a quote in white text with a black outline.

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” (Eph 2:20)

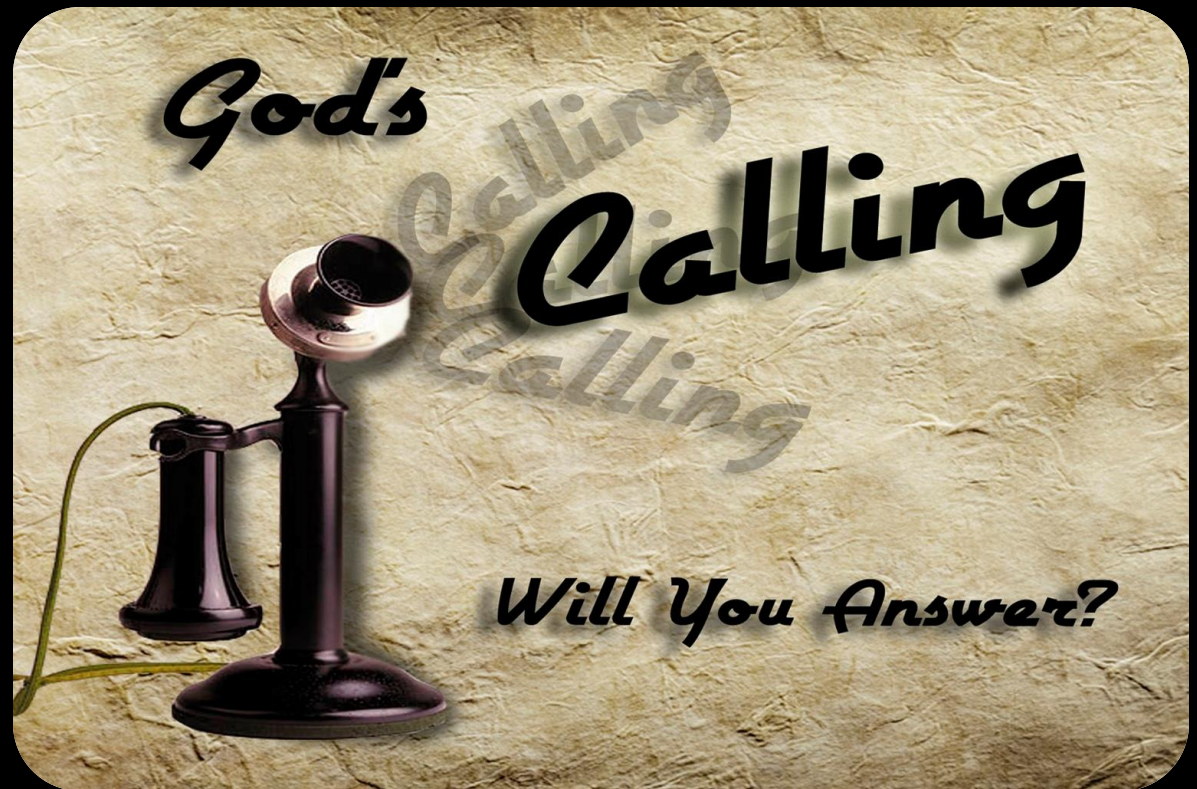
Subjects to be covered

- What is the Church.
- History, growth and development of the Church.
- What is the purpose and mission of the Church.
- The ministry and qualifications of the pastor.
- How is the church to function.
- How does the Lord Build the Church.

The Meaning of the Word "Church."

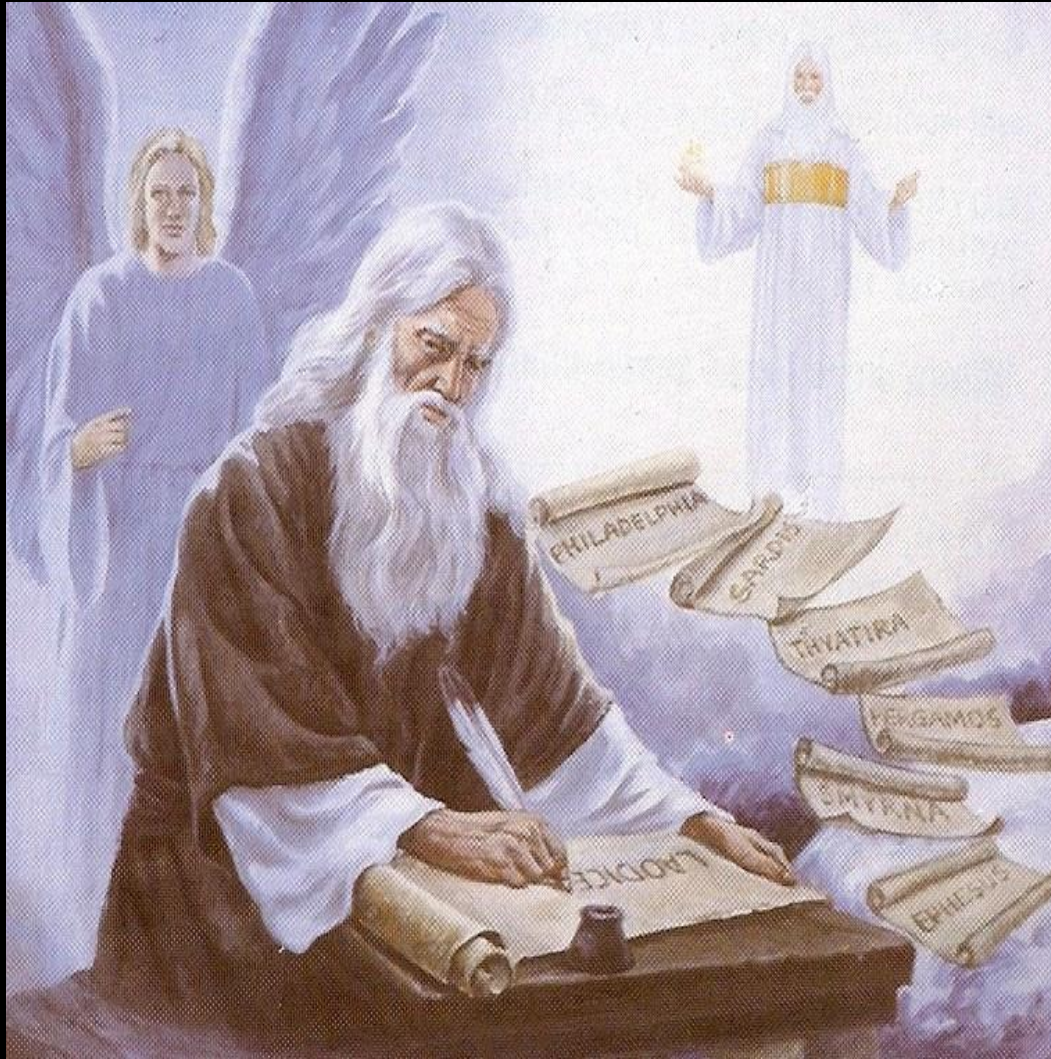
- The Greek word in the New Testament for our English word "church" is *ekklesia*. It is derived from the verb *ekkaleo*. The compound *ek* means "out," and *kaleo* means "to call or summon an assembly."
- Thus, the literal meaning is "to call out assembly."
- The Doctrine of the Church is call (*Ecclesiology*).
- *1 Cor. 1:9* "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

- Gal. 1:6 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.”
- II Thess. 2:14 “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”



The Definition of the Church

- A called out Assembly – *“The Church at...”*



- *Heb. 2:12 I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*
- *I Tim. 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*
- *I Thess. 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ:*
- *Col 4:15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and the church which is in his house.*
- *Col 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans.*

- *I Cor. 16:19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.*
- *II Cor. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia.*
- *I Cor. 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?*
- *I Cor. 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.*

- **A called out Assembly of Baptized Believers –**
- *Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
- *Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*



- A called out Assembly of Baptized Believers gathered together for –

1. Doctrine
2. Fellowship
3. Breaking of Bread
4. Prayers
5. Worship



- *Acts 2:42* “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
- *Psalm 29:2* “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”
(Worship - found 40 times in the New Testament)

PREACHING



TRUTH



THIS I
IN REMEMBRANCE
OF ME



Church Facts

- Approximately 80% of all churches in North America have reached a plateau or are declining.
- The vast majority of the church's growth comes from "switchers" - people who move from one church to another.
- There is very little conversion growth.
(Researchers suggest somewhere between 1-3%)

Church attendance is declining

1990 — 20.4% of Americans attended church on a given weekend

2000 — 18.7% of Americans attended church on a given weekend

2005 — 17.5% of Americans attended church on a given weekend

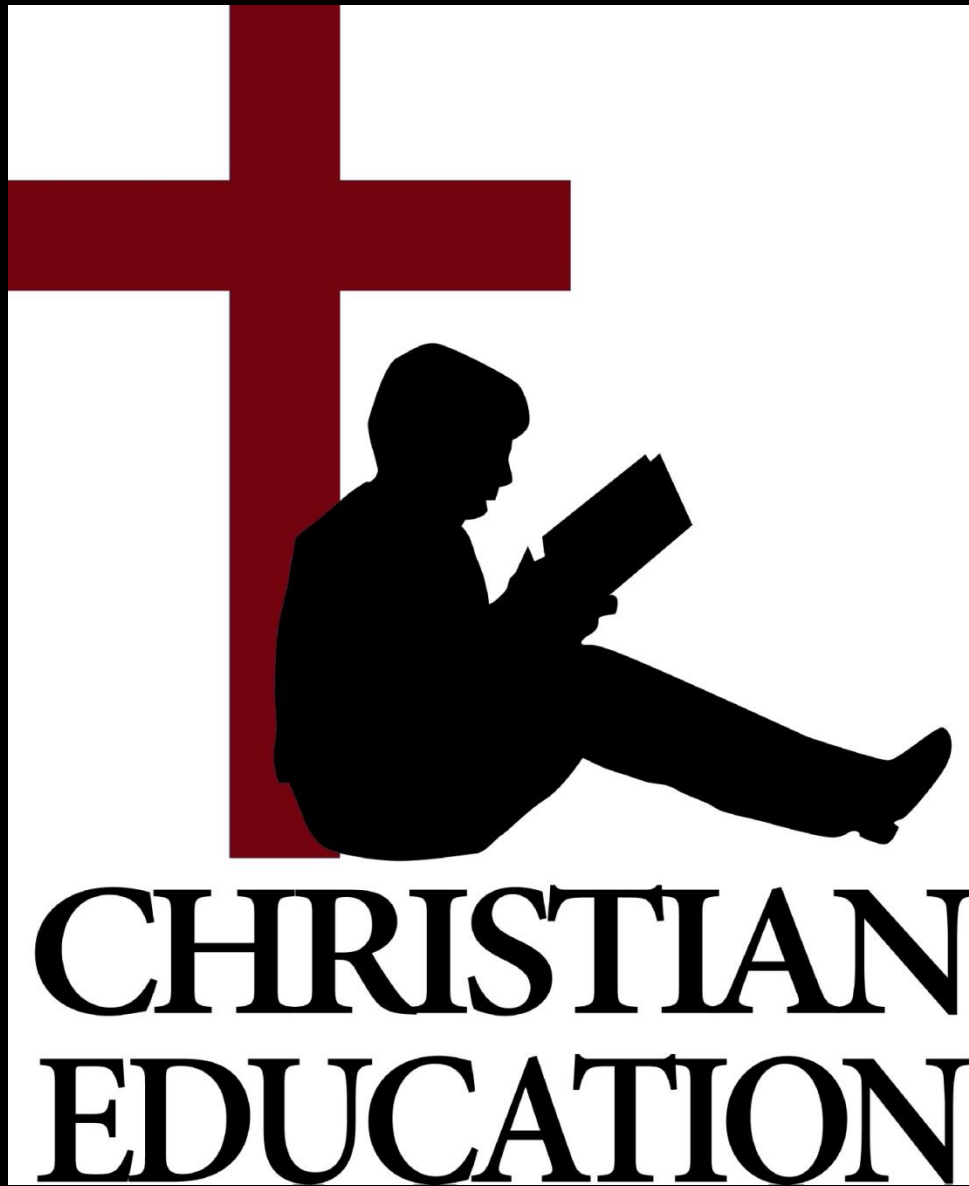
2010 — 16.2% of Americans attended church on a given weekend

2020 — 14.4% estimated church attendance

2050 — 10.7% estimated church attendance if Jesus has not come.

Since 2008 over
3,500 people leave
the church every day

Every year, approximately 4000 new churches open their doors. Every year approximately 7000 churches close their doors for the last time.



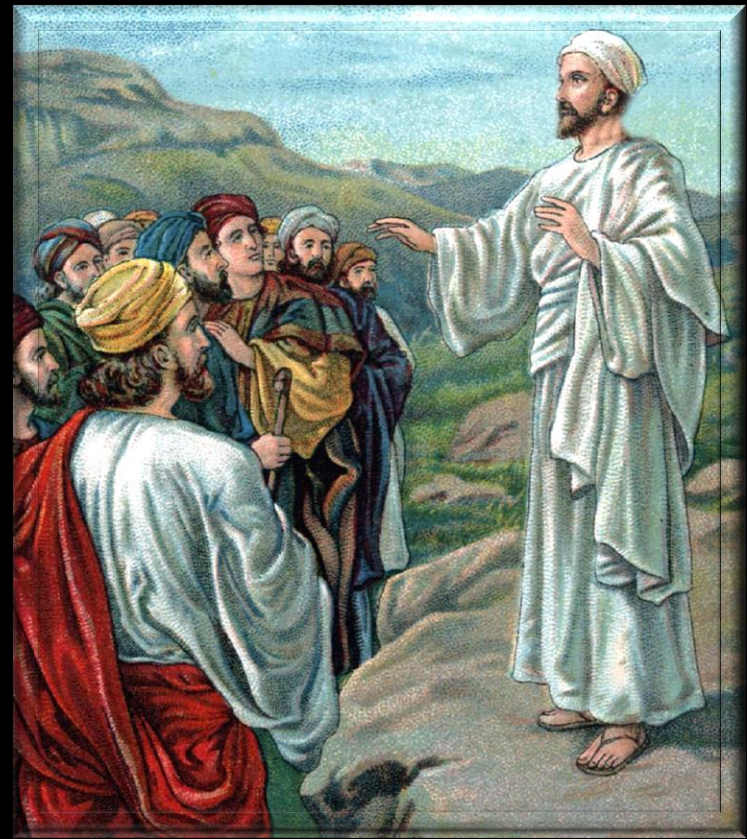
The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), which has more than 5,500 member schools worldwide, normally averages 150 school closures each year.

- 80% of Pastors and 84% of their spouses feel unqualified and **discouraged** in their role as pastors.
- Pastors who work fewer than 50 hours a week are 35% more likely to be terminated than Pastors who work more than 50 hours per week.
- 50% feel unable to meet the demands of the job.

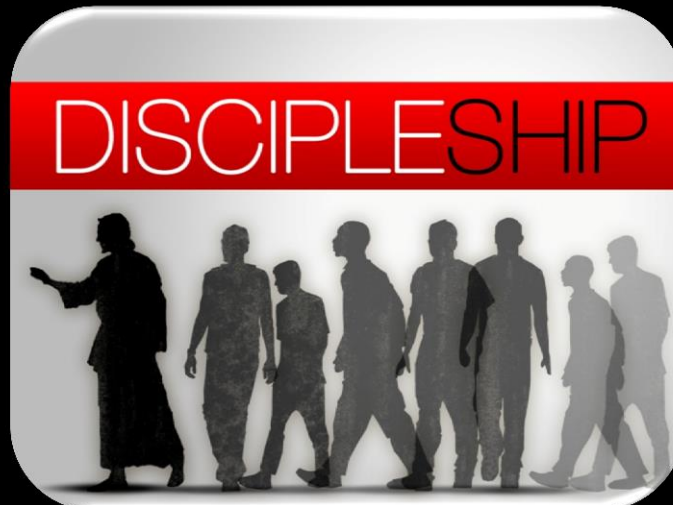
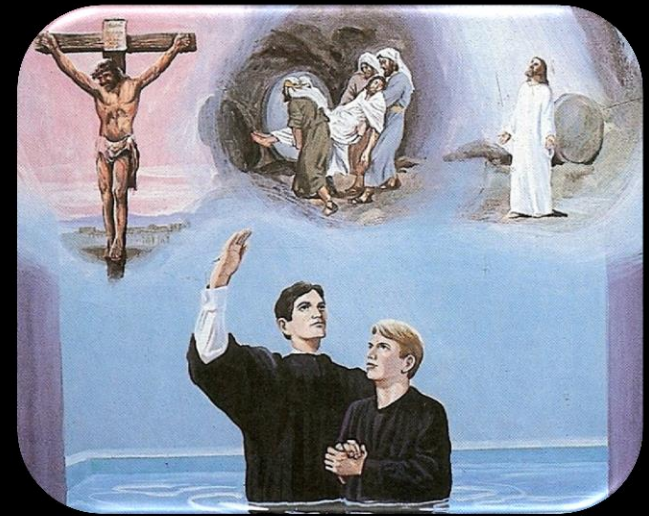
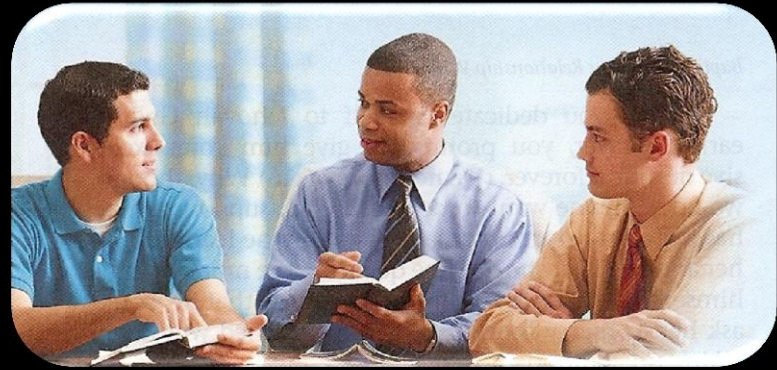
- 70% do not have someone they consider a close friend.
- 56% of Pastors' wives say they that they have no close friends.
- 46% say that they've experienced depression or burnout to the extent that they needed to take a leave of absence from ministry.
- 1,500 pastors leave the ministry every month from discouragement, burnout or inability to provide for their family.

“I will build my church...”

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”



- *Evangelize*
- *Baptize*
- *Stabilize*

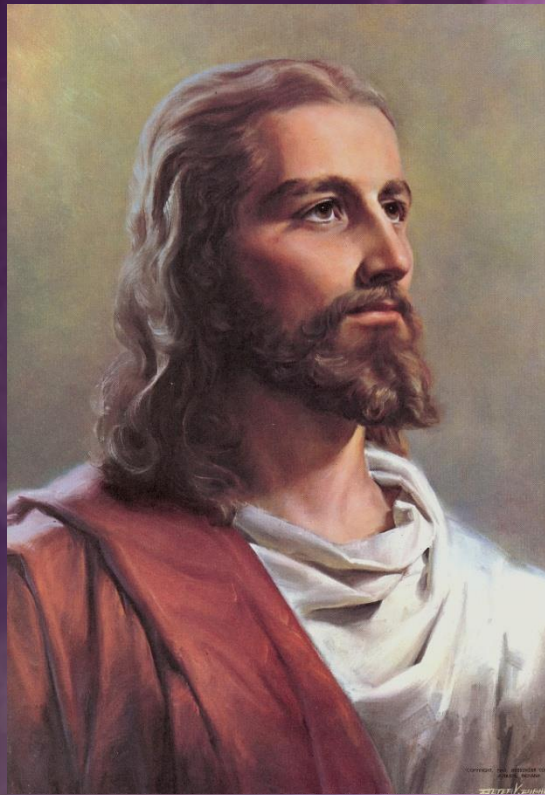


The Importance of the Local Church

- The word ***“Church”*** appears 114 times in the New Testament
- Greek (*ekklesia*) = *“An assembly of people called out”*
- 99 times the word ***“Church”*** is used in reference to particular local churches
- 7 times in reference to the ***“Universal Church”***
- *8 times in reference to the “Local Church” in general not a particular church*
- *108 Local / 7 Universal*

*“Not forsaking the
assembling of
our selves
together...and so
much the more as
ye see the day
approaching.”
(Hebrews 10:25)*

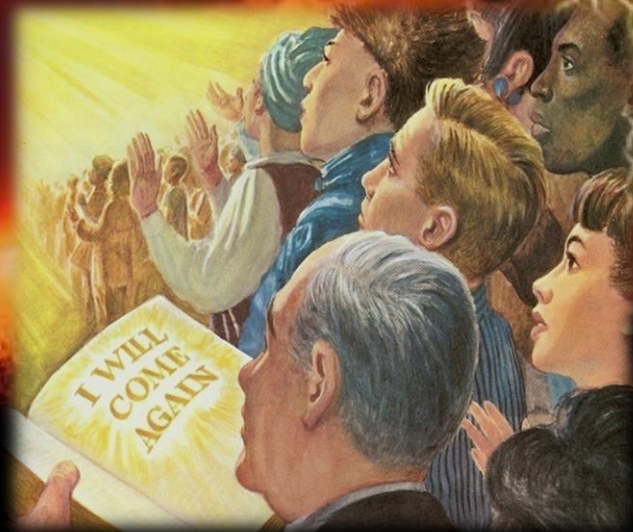
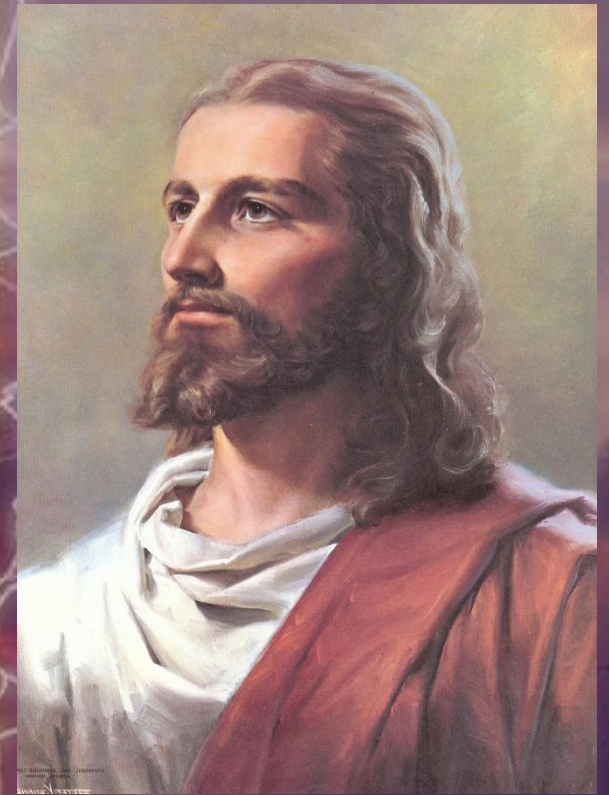




*“So likewise
ye, when ye
shall see all
these
things,
know that it
is near,
even at the
door.”*



“When these things begin to come to pass, then look up... for your redemption draweth nigh.”

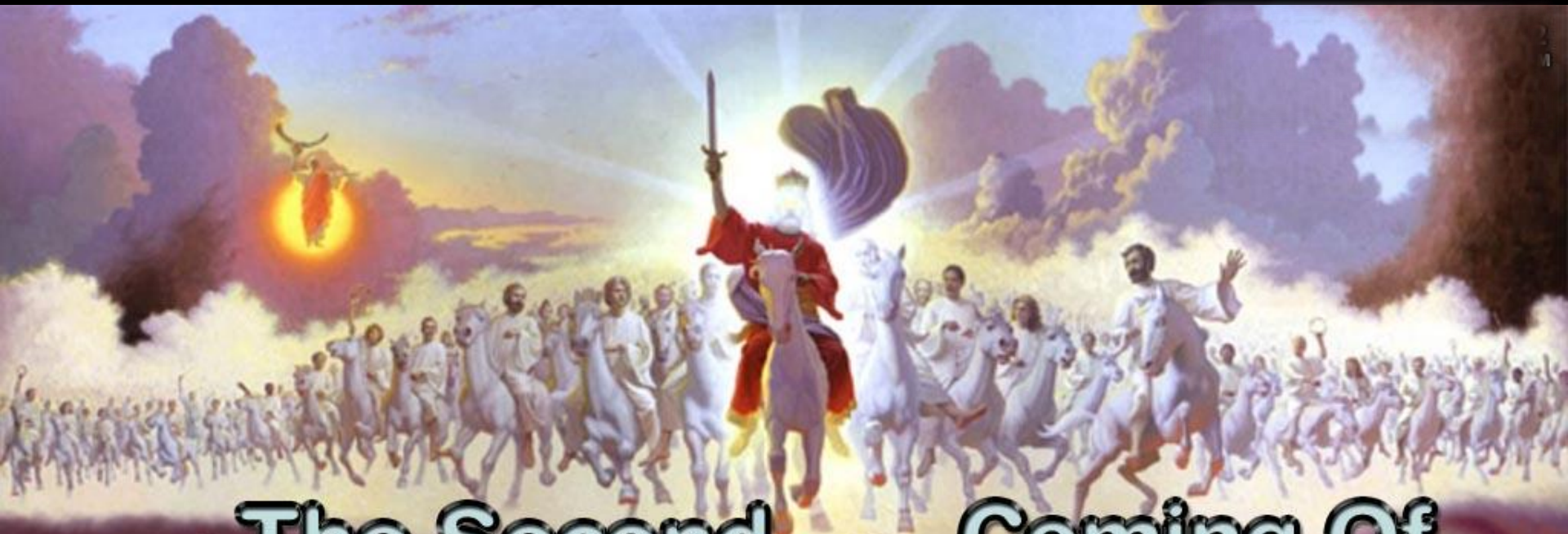


**When Will
Jesus
Return?**



WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?





The Second Coming Of JESUS CHRIST

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

The Signs of the Times



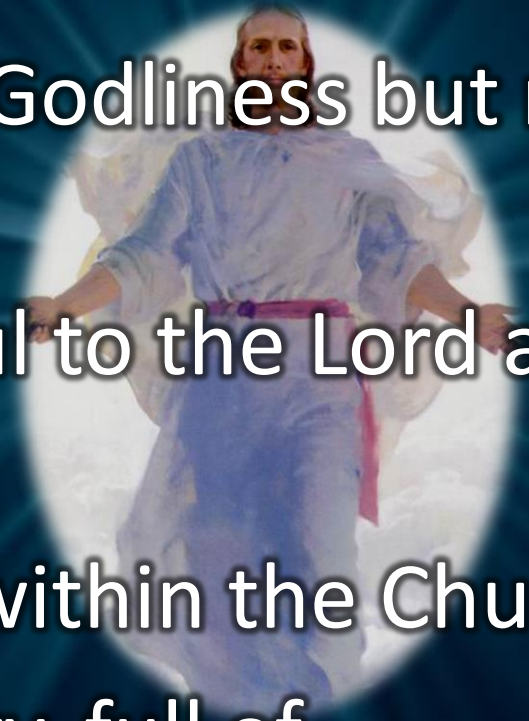
- *Daniel chapter 7-12*
- *Matthew chapter 24*
- *Mark chapter 13*
- *Luke chapter 21*
- *Epistles of Paul*
- *Revelation*



- Increase of false religion
- False religious leaders
- False prophets (teachers)
- False Christ
- Many Anti-Christ's
- Hardness to the gospel
- Breakup of the traditional family
- Betrayal of friends and family members
- Domestic violence will be ramped
- Lawlessness will increase



- Spiritual apathy / Lukewarm
- Church will have a form of Godliness but no power
- Christians will be unfaithful to the Lord and His Church
- Many unbelievers will be within the Church
- Church we be contemporary, full of compromise and worldliness
- Great falling away from the fundamental truths of Scripture
- Increase of sin and wickedness



- Increase of occult activity and involvement
- Spiritual blindness
- Speed and ease of travel
- Acceleration of knowledge
- Increase in scientific knowledge
- Increase in medical knowledge
- Communication breakthroughs
- Increase in technical knowledge
- Computer age/Internet
- Movement towards a one world church



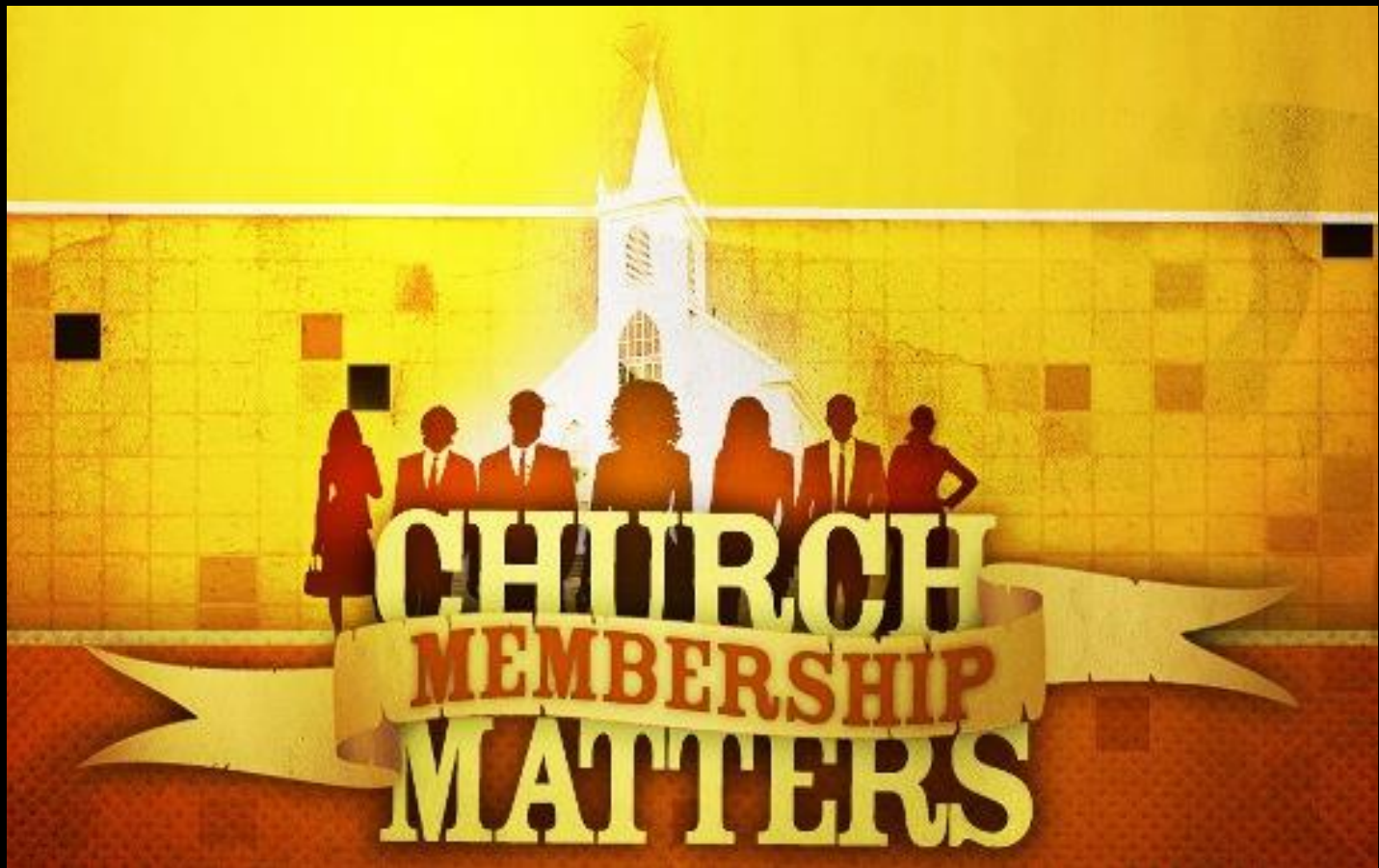
- Ecumenicalism will increase
- Mocking of Biblical truth
- Men will be arrogant and prideful
- Increase of diseases
- Natural disasters
- Famines / Pestilences
- One world economy
- One world money market
- One world currency
- Cashless society



Teaching your people to be good church members



MY ROLE IN THE LOCAL BODY OF CHRIST THE CHURCH



Am I a Good Church Member

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

(II Cor. 5:10)



1. Do I place equal value on all members of the body, even those that seem less significant or desirable - *1 Corinthians 12:25?*
2. Does my heart suffer when another member is hurting, and do I rejoice when another member is honored - *1 Corinthians 12:26?*
3. Do I know what my spiritual gift is, and am I actively using it to edify the body - *1 Corinthians 12:7?*
4. Do I promote the oneness of the body with my words by refusing to belittle other believers in the church - *1 Corinthians 12:12-25?*

5. Am I quick to share with God's people who are in need - *Romans 12:13*?
6. Do I practice hospitality, making my home and resources available to minister to other believers - *Romans 12:13*?
7. Do I have a humble attitude toward other believers, esteeming them as better than myself - *Philippians 2:3*?
8. Am I more concerned about the interests and needs of other believers than I am about my own - *Philippians 2:4*?

9. Am I involved daily in encouraging and exhorting other believers in their Christian walk - *Hebrews 10:24-25?*
10. Do I pray consistently for other believers - *Ephesians 6:18?*
11. When I realize that another believer has something against me, do I take initiative to go and seek to be reconciled to him - *Matthew 5:23-24?*
12. When another believer wrongs me, do I go and show him his fault, just between the two of us - *Matthew 18:15?*

13. When I see another believer who is caught in a sin, do I reach out and seek to restore him to obedience - *Galatians 6:1?*
14. Do I treat both poor and wealthy in Christ alike - *James 2:1-4?*
15. Do I encourage grieving brothers and sisters with the Word of God - *1 Thessalonians 4:18?*



Am I a Faithful Church Member

*“Moreover it is required in stewards,
that a man be found faithful.” 1 Cor. 4:2*

- Faithful in attendance – *Heb. 10:25*
- Faithful in tithing – *Mal. 3:10*
- Faithful in support of church ministry –
Eph. 4:12
- Faithful in serving – *1 Cor. 16:15*
- Faithful in worship – *Psalms 29:2*

i  my church