

February 26, 2017
THE CHURCH
Experiencing God: Unit 10 Days 1-3

Introduction:

- Mark the following statements as either true (T) or false (F) in reflecting a God-centered church.
 1. An effective church is built by strong leadership, active member participation, and good organization. T F
 2. A church is a group of people who have been effectively organized as an institution in a local community. T F
 3. Every church needs a board. T F
 4. Church attendance is important to show our support for the organization. T F
 5. A church sets worthy and reachable goals for members to work to achieve. T F
- The first time the word church is mentioned in the Bible is by J _____ (Matt 16:18) and is the key to reflecting a God-centered church body.

Defining the Church (Matt 16:18)

- Literal meaning – those c _____ out of.
- Practical meaning found in 1 Pet 2:9
 1. Who does the calling? _____
 2. What did we get called out of? _____
 3. Darkness represents _____
 4. Light represents _____
 5. Therefore the church is the people whom God has saved from sin and through Christ has brought them into a personal relationship with Him.
- Local church membership
 1. Does not a _____ you into Christ's church.
 2. Is a practical way for a Christian to a _____ with the doctrinal beliefs and to s _____ cooperation with others in carrying out Christ's ministry in the world.

Building the Church (Matthew 16:13-18)

- Jesus asks two questions:
 - What do you h _____ people saying as the identity of Jesus?
 - What do you b _____ is His identity?

●Peter's answer to the second question.

1. You are the C_____ (defined in the Old Testament as the promised Messiah, the final King of Israel, the Mighty God who would become man)
2. The S_____ of the living God (not of man)

●Jesus's response

1. Peter did not draw this conclusion from collecting facts but because _____ revealed this truth.
2. Jesus changed Peter's name to Peter which means r_____ (his name was Simon Barjona prior to this).
3. Jesus would build His church on this rock
 - This does NOT refer to Peter, otherwise He would have used the word Petros (the name Peter in Greek).
 - This DOES refer to the f_____ he professed as the solid foundation (Jesus used the feminine word petra which means rock)
 - The gates of Hades (KJV – hell) will not overpower Christ's church – this refers to d_____ (Hades was the holding place for the dead)

●In the following statements circles those statements that reflect church growth.

1. When a person comes to faith in Christ
2. When the average attendance in a local church increases dramatically over a year's time.
3. When believers who are gathered together use their spiritual gifts in serving each other.
4. When believers long for God's word and apply it.

Conclusion – change the statements in the introduction to reflect God-centered thinking

1. An effective church is built by _____.
2. A church is a group of people that have a _____ relationship with Jesus.
3. Every church needs Jesus to d_____ it.
4. Jesus desires to u_____ every Christian.
5. Jesus desires to use _____ church body.

***We must not center the church around the pastor, dedicated workers, programs, buildings, or budgets but around its builder –
Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the Living God.***