

# **The House of God** **Rediscovering It's purpose**

## **Part 1**

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**"Scripture quotations taken from the Amplified Bible."**

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In understanding the purpose of the church, we must first understand what the church is.... In defining the word Church, the greek word is Ecclesia. It simply means

The church, is an assembly, a group of people called out by God for a special task.

(Note: In the New Testament, the word "Church" never refers to a meeting place, it always refers to the people who meet together.

When people have asked me the question, "Is church necessary". Their fundamental premise is flawed. What they are actually trying to ask me is permission to not come to church. By asking this question, they are in effect trying to come to a conclusion that justifies their rebellion against God's word.

There are two references to the church in the Bible. The Universal church and the local church.

The word "Church" was actually used only 2 times in the Gospels. Matthew 16:18 (Universal) and Matthew 18:17 (Local)

### **Matthew 16:18**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**18** And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, *Petros*—a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, *petra*—a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].

The Universal church is made up of all true Christians world wide. It is the totality of all who believe in Jesus.

### **Matthew 18:17**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**17** If he pays no attention to them [refusing to listen and obey], tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a pagan and a tax collector.

In order for God to make us into the kind of people He intends us to become, there must be a process of transformation.

### **Romans 8:29**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**29** For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the

beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.

There are 3 types of preachers today.

Motivational

Inspirational

Transformational

The church must regain the focus of its mandate - to see people transformed by the "revelation" of who Jesus is.

### **Matthew 16:13**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**13** Now when Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, Who do people say that the Son of Man is?

Matt. 16:13 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?

Matt. 16:14 And They Said, Some Say That Thou Art John The Baptist: Some, Elias; And Others, Jeremias, Or One Of The Prophets.

Matt. 16:15 He Saith Unto Them, But Whom Say Ye That I Am?

Matt. 16:16 And Simon Peter Answered And Said, Thou Art The Christ, The Son Of The Living God.

Matt. 16:17 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.

Matt. 16:18 And I Say Also Unto Thee, That Thou Art Peter, And Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church; And The Gates Of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against It.

**14** And they answered, Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

**15** He said to them, But who do you [yourselves] say that I am?

**16** Simon Peter replied, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

**17** Then Jesus answered him, Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are you, Simon Bar-Jonah. For flesh and blood [men] have not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven.

**18** And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, *Petros*—a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, *petra*—a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].

What was the rock?

It was the revelation that "Jesus was the Christ" Illuminated by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Here is the process of revelation:

**Confrontation** - There was a direct, person to person confrontation between Jesus and Peter. There was no one in between them. No mediator or priest.

**Revelation** - Peter received a revelation that was not a product of his reasoning, understanding or sense. The Holy Spirit granted it to him supernaturally.

**Acknowledgement** - Peter acknowledged the revelation, which is important. It is one thing to receive a revelation, it is another thing to acknowledge it.

**Public confession** - Peter made a public confession of what he acknowledged. He said out loud, in public, "You are the Christ [Messiah], The Son of the the Living God." Jesus said, "On this rock [this acknowledgement, or confession] I will build my church."

Family, there is no such thing as a secret Christian.

### **Matthew 10:32-33**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**32** Therefore, everyone who acknowledges Me before men *and* confesses Me [out of a state of oneness with Me], I will also acknowledge him before My Father Who is in heaven *and* confess [that I am abiding in] him.

**33** But whoever denies *and* disowns Me before men, I also will deny *and* disown him before My Father Who is in heaven.

There is no neutrality when it comes to following Christ.

### **Matthew 12:30**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**30** He who is not with Me [definitely on My side] is against Me, and he who does not [definitely] gather with Me *and* for My side scatters.

Revelation of Christ is not to be taken lightly.

### **Matthew 11:25-27**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**25** At that time Jesus began to say, I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth [and I acknowledge openly *and* joyfully to Your honor], that You have hidden these things from the wise *and* clever and learned, and revealed them to babies [to the childish, untaught, and unskilled].

**26** Yes, Father, [I praise You that] such was Your gracious will *and* good pleasure.

**27** All things have been entrusted *and* delivered to Me by My Father; and no one fully knows *and* accurately understands the Son except the Father, and no one fully knows *and* accurately understands the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son deliberately wills to make Him known.

The only way to become a member of the true Church (Universal) is through Christ alone.

### **John 10:1-9**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**10** I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, he who does not enter by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way (elsewhere, from some other quarter) is a thief and a robber.

**2** But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

**3** The watchman opens the door for this man, and the sheep listen to his voice *and* heed it; and he calls his own sheep by name and brings (leads) them out.

**4** When he has brought his own sheep outside, he walks on before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

**5** They will never [on any account] follow a stranger, but will run away from him because they do not know the voice of strangers *or* recognize their call.

6 Jesus used this parable (illustration) with them, but they did not understand what He was talking about.

7 So Jesus said again, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that I Myself am the Door for the sheep.

8 All others who came [as such] before Me are thieves and robbers, but the [true] sheep did not listen to *and* obey them.

9 I am the Door; anyone who enters in through Me will be saved (will live). He will come in and he will go out [freely], and will find pasture.

Jesus is the shepherd.

### **Hebrews 13:20-21**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

20 Now may the God of peace [Who is the Author and the Giver of peace], Who brought again from among the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood [that sealed, ratified] the everlasting agreement (covenant, testament),

21 Strengthen (complete, perfect) *and* make you what you ought to be *and* equip you with everything good that you may carry out His will; [while He Himself] works in you *and* accomplishes that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ (the Messiah); to Whom be the glory forever and ever (to the ages of the ages). Amen (so be it).

Jesus is the foundation.

### **1 Corinthians 3:11**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**11** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is [already] laid, which is Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

### **1 Peter 2:5-6**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**5** [Come] and, like living stones, be yourselves built [into] a spiritual house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to offer up [those] spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable *and* pleasing to God through Jesus Christ.

**6** For thus it stands in Scripture: Behold, I am laying in Zion a chosen (honored), precious chief Cornerstone, and he who believes in Him [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him] shall never be disappointed *or* put to shame.

### **Isaiah 28:16**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**16** Therefore thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am laying in Zion for a foundation a Stone, a tested Stone, a precious Cornerstone of sure foundation; he who believes (trusts in, relies on, and adheres to that Stone) will not *be ashamed or give way or* hasten away [in sudden panic].

### **Psalms 62:1-7**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**To the Chief Musician; according to Jeduthun [Ethan, the noted musician, founder of an official musical family]. A Psalm of David.**

**1** For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation.

2 He only is my Rock and my Salvation, my Defense *and* my Fortress, I shall not be greatly moved.

3 How long will you set upon a man that you may slay him, all of you, like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?

4 They only consult to cast him down from his height [to dishonor him]; they delight in lies. They bless with their mouths, but they curse inwardly. *Selah* [pause, and calmly think of that]!

5 My soul, wait only upon God *and* silently submit to Him; for my hope *and* expectation are from Him.

6 He only is my Rock and my Salvation; He is my Defense *and* my Fortress, I shall not be moved.

7 With God rests my salvation and my glory; He is my Rock of unyielding strength *and* impenetrable hardness, and my refuge is in God!