

Post-Pandemic Bible Meeting

Week 1

These Sessions of Teaching are going to be Focusing on the Church in our Present Post-Pandemic Times.

❖ **Our Aim/Goal of Studies**

Repent so the Church can get back to its Manufactures Setting

Reflect on the Period of the Church

Re-examine the Positions of the Church

Resolve in the Purpose of the Church

Rest in His Person/Provisions for the Church

❖ **The Purpose of Study**

- To Encourage/Strengthened the Church in its Reality/Responsibility in the World.
- To Encourage Christians into the Seriousness of Bible Study.
 - To Equip Christians for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.
 - To Inform Christians in the word of God in order to be Transformed by the Renewing of our minds.

- To Exalt/Exult Jesus Christ for Greatness/Blessing of His Church.

❖ Questions to be Pondered

- ❖ Where/What Should be the Focus/Function of the Church in Times of so much Difficulty/Disarray?
- ❖ How can the Church Remain Faithful to God in such Faithless times?
- ❖ How can the Church Engage/Effective in Mindful Living in a Mindless Age?

❖ Matthew 16:13–18

Jesus Questions His Disciples

[13] Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”**

[14] And they said, **“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 say that I am?”**

[16] Simon Peter replied, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

[17] And Jesus answered him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**

Jesus Pronounces Blessing Upon Peter for his answer.

❖ **Knowing who Jesus is not Something MAN Discovers
but it is something God Must Uncover.**

[18] And I tell you, you are Peter, **and on this rock I will** build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Notice, it is upon the Clear Understanding of Who Jesus is, the Church is Built/Being Built.

**Jesus here makes a Declaration of His
Sovereignty/Ownership of the Church and a Promise of
Church' Success.**

❖ **“Our Hope/Confidence/Assurance for the Future of the
Church is God is Faithful! 16:18, Phil. 1:6**

❖ **Church, we serve a Sovereign God!**

Psalm 115:3, Dan.4:34-35, Eph. 1:11

[3] Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

One of my favorite narratives in the Bible that highlights this truth of the Sovereignty of God is the story of Jonah.

The book of Jonah is not really about Jonah.

It is about the Sovereignty of God.

God Always Gets His Way!

Proper – because of who He is

Pertinent – because of what He does

God tells Jonah to Go, but Jonah says No! v. 1-3

The Message was Received
The Mission was Rejected



❖ The Messenger was Reminded v. 4-6

How is the Messenger Reminded?

❖ *Divine Intervention – Storm - Grace/Power/Love*

*Divine Confrontation – You can't have Conversion/Repentance without
Confrontation*

The **Storm** is a sign of God's displeasure with the disobedience of Jonah.

But it is also a sign of His Grace and Mercy toward Jonah.

God challenges Jonah's indifference

God exposed Jonah's identity

God revisited Jonah's sin

God's judgment on Jonah was inescapable

❖ In verses 11-15

The storm is intensifying.

God won't let up until Jonah gives in.

God is teaching Jonah/us that He Always Gets His Way.

❖ The Master Remembered

The Master didn't remember Jonah's Rebellious/Resistance/Running.

God's Priority/Focus is on His Redemption for His own Glory.

Is it possible that the Problems of the Church Post-Pandemic are really the Problems from the Pre-Pandemic?

Maybe the Pandemic is the Divine Intervention of Our Sovereign God to Awaken the Church that was Sleep heading in the wrong direction.

After the Storm and the Fish throws Jonah back to Land.

The Word from the Lord Comes to Jonah a Second Time,

Go to Nineveh. Jonah had to Repent/Reset

❖ What the Word of the Lord Before the Pandemic the Word of the Lord to the Church

Matthew 28:19–20

The Great Commission

[19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

[20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- ❖ Where/What Should be the Focus/Function of the Church in Times of so much Difficulty/Disarray?
- ❖ How can the Church Remain Faithful to God in such Faithless times?
- ❖ How can the Church Engage/Effective in Mindful Living in a Mindless Age?

We all believe/know that the Pandemic of Covid 19 has had a tremendous affect upon the Church.

While I think we cannot deny the reality/effects of Covid-19.

- ➔ Christians have died
- ➔ Commitments has dwindled
- ➔ Church attendance is down
- ➔ Conversion have decreased
- ➔ Critics are developing

We Must ask ourselves are the Difficulties of the Post Pandemic Times

Revealing Something to Me about Me
Interrupting/Inconveniencing Me from being Me
These Post Pandemic Times are a Clarion Call to the Church
To Stop/Repent Rethink our Thinking.

❖ **These are times when the Church Must have Steady Pre-Occupation with Christ.**

“It is said whoever/whatever you look at the most you become like.”

If this is indeed true,
Is it possible the church is giving so much of its Attention to the World we
have started to look like the World.

I repeat, The Church needs to have a Steady Pre-Occupation with Jesus
Christ, His Will/Way/Word.

Romans 12:1–2

[1] I appeal to you therefore, **brothers**, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

[2] **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

God’s Ultimate Purpose in saving us is to Conform us to the Image of
Jesus Christ.

This Require a Steady Pre-Occupation with Christ.

→ Word

→ Will

→ Way

Many think the times in which live are New.
However, the times are not New but they are True.

They are True to the Predictions of the Scriptures.

❖ Understanding the Times in which we Live

2 Timothy 3:1–9

Godlessness in the Last Days

[1] But understand this, that **in the last days there will come times of difficulty.**

Difficulty is Predicted

[2] For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

[3] heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

[4] treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

[5] having the appearance of godliness but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Depravity is Presented

❖ [6] For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,

[7] always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

Deception is Practiced

[8] Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.

Description/Distinguishing of the Perpetrators

[9] But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

Destiny Promised

The Issue for the Day,

❖ Time/Pandemic is not the Problem for the Church.
It is a Sinful People Problem.

The Church Must Follow God's Plan of Operation.

What should we be doing?

Paul says to Timothy Preach the Word!

We Must Preach the Word

➔ Dangers of the Seasons

➔ Devotion of the Saints

➔ Dynamics of the Scripture

➔ Demand of the Sovereign

➔ Deception of the Sensual

The question that is plaguing many about the Church in the Post-Pandemic Times is

“What should the church be doing in these times?”

Many say we must change/find a New/Better way to do Church.

Many say we must re-think our thinking.

I agree but I think we must start with a biblical understanding of Theological Principles. What is our Purpose?

We will never Behave Right and Believe Wrong.

This is not the time for the church to become Comfortable/Complacent but Consistent/Constant

This is no time for Sleeping, we must fulfill Our God-Given
Responsibility in the World.

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ has a
Reality/Responsibility. Matthew 5:13-16
Salt/Light says who we are/what we are to be doing.

We have both Identity/Function.

Identity Determines Function/Practice.
Who you are will always determine what you do.

How do we Fulfill such a Difficult Assignment, especially in such a
godless environment?

❖ “The Church Must Be Found Faithful
by
Focusing on Christ”

We must have a Steady Pre-Occupation
with
Our Lord.



**1. The Church Must Know What It
Means to *Believe* in *God*.**

Belief in God is the foundation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

“Well of course we must believe in God.”

However, we must not take this reality for granted.

As a church, to be Effective in Our Responsibilities/Practices we must begin our Focus on God. **Believing by Faith in God not simply Believing Facts About God.**

Believing His Word/Will/Way

When speak of Believing God, what are we speaking of?

What is True Belief/Saving Faith?

3 Elements of True Saving Faith

Contents of Faith

Convictions of Faith

Confidence of Faith

The Church Must Know What It Means to Believe in God this is not to keep people out but to bring them in accord to True Faith.

John 12:37-43

John 5:14

[14] Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."

2. The Church Must Know What It Means to *Belong* to *God*.

Matthew 16:18

[18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

The Church belongs to Christ.

Jesus ALONE, Gave His life so we will be united with God/Him forever.

Jesus Christ has Exclusive Claims on His Church and its Member.

Peter summarizes the heart of the gospel in this way:

"Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

By his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls"

(1Peter 2:24-25).

Notice Christians, we are a people Returned/Brought into the Possession of Christ. We are the Redeemed Property of God (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Christ paid his own blood as the price to remove our sin so that we could return into his possession. **He did not purchase our sins.**

He purchased the forgiveness of our sins so that we could be restored to God's possession.

He Paid the Penalty for Our Sins with His Own Life/Blood.

Each child of God has been purchased. Paul wrote, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirits, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Our Redemption was accomplished by the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7), something of far greater value than silver and gold (1 Pet. 1:18). Each child of God has the same hope, having been purchased by the blood of Christ.

The One Who Makes the Purchase is the One Who Calls the Shot.

The Church BELONGS to HIM.

3. The Church Must Know What It Means to *Bow to God.*

John 12:3

[3] Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

