

## Some Things We Think We Know About the Church

### Introduction:

There are lessons we learn then there are lessons we think we know. Sometimes we may think we know (understand) something but not really understand all the implications and applications.

### I) The Difference Between \_\_\_\_\_ and Not Being Able To, Hebrews 10:24-25, 2 Corinthians 8:12

- A) Forsaking – \_\_\_\_\_
- B) Not being able to do something - \_\_\_\_\_
- C) The underlying principle of not meeting together during this time was?
  1. Concern for the health of one another (sickness). **Matthew 22:37- 40, 1 Corinthians 12:23 - 26**
  2. Did congregations not meet because they did not want to? Or, because the external circumstances made it dangerous for people to assemble?

### II) The church is not the \_\_\_\_\_

- A) I remember this being stressed a lot when I was younger.
  1. We don't go to church; we go to the church building.
  2. The building is an expedient, an aid or tool for the "church" to use.
- B) The church is...
  1. That which Christ came to \_\_\_\_\_ . **Matthew 16:18**
  2. Composed of the \_\_\_\_\_, Acts 2.47
  3. That which Christ purchased with His own \_\_\_\_\_. **Acts 20:28 "**
- C) The distinction between the "church" and the building is important.
  1. The church can meet outside a building or without a building. **Acts 16:13 -14**
  2. Is worship limited to a "church building?" \_\_\_\_\_ **John 4:20 -24**
  3. Where saints meet together they can worship together. **Matthew 18:20**

### III) Local Congregations Are \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Autonomy-\_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Universal church – all of the saved, Acts 2.47
  2. Local congregations – saints in a particular area working together,
- B) Each congregation is bound by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. **Galatians 1:9, Mark 16.16, Acts 8:37, Acts 2:38**
- C) Local autonomy means
  1. Each congregation had its own \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Each congregation had its own \_\_\_\_\_. **1 Corinthians 16:1 -2**
  3. Each congregation had its own work of preaching the Gospel, edifying its members, and helping needy saints.
  4. Each congregation had its own \_\_\_\_\_ to oversee that particular congregation. **Acts 14:23, 1Peter 5:1 - 2a**
- D) Question: what to do about closing our doors and when to open up for services.
  1. There is no corporate office to make that decision, or one eldership making it for everyone else.
  2. Each congregation, each eldership makes their own decisions.