

“Understanding Why the Church Matters” 10/11/09

Matthew 16:18

Sermon Series - “Understanding the Nature and Function of the Church”

WHY DO PEOPLE LEAVE AND STAY AWAY from the CHURCH?

New Testament Church- Romans- religious pride (2), insensitivity (14), arrogance (12); **1 Corinthians-** party spirit/factions (1-3); open sin (5); lawsuits among saints (6); unlawful divorce (7); insensitivity (8, 10); abusing Lord’s supper (10-11); abusing spiritual gifts (12-14); denying resurrection (15); **Colossians-** spiritual and religious pride and intolerance; **Philippians-** disunity among the women; **Galatians-** abandoning the true gospel; **Seven churches of Rev** (2-3)

POINT 1- The church matters because of the PRODUCTIVITY of the Lord Jesus

- A. The production and growth of the church is solely the work of JESUS (Matt 16:18 “MY”; John 15:5; Matt 13:1-23, 37; Acts 2:47; 5:14; 11:21)

Going Deeper God expects us to value the work that Jesus deems a priority!

POINT 2- The church matters because of the PRICE of the Lord Jesus

- A. The price to redeem the church was of INFINITE value. (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Peter 1:19; 2:9; Rev 5:9; Eph 1:7; 1 Cor 6:19)

Going Deeper God expects us to value the work that Jesus gave everything for!

POINT 3- The church matters because of the PURPOSE of the Lord Jesus

- A. The purpose of God is to use the church to demonstrate His WISDOM (Ephesians 3:8-12; 1:22-23; Colossians 2:15; 2 Cor 2:14; 1 Cor 1:18-31)

Going Deeper God expects us to value the work that Jesus uses for His great purpose!

POINT 4- The church matters because of the PLAN of the Lord Jesus

- A. The plan of God involves building the church as His DWELLING (Ephesians 2:11-22; 1 Cor 3:9-17; 2 Cor 6:16; Ephesians 3:17; Acts 17:24)

Going Deeper God expects us to value the work that Jesus is building for a temple!

Homework: Read the seven letters to the seven churches and write down the things that Jesus had against them (Rev 2-3). How does Revelation 3:19 apply?