

WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THE LORD'S CHURCH

Matthew 16:16-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There are some who can only find things WRONG with the Lord's Church.
- B. While there are some things in the church that are not what they ought to be, there are so many things RIGHT with the Lord's Church.
- C. Let's study what is RIGHT with the Lord's Church:

I. THE CHURCH HAS THE RIGHT OWNER, Matthew 16:18.

- A. Hence the phrase that I love to hear – “THE LORD'S CHURCH.”
- B. The Church belongs to Jesus, for he said “Upon this rock I will build my church,”
 - 1. The church is built upon the facts included in Peter's confession, **v.16**.
 - 2. The church belongs to the Lord: MY church. (Not “my” church as many say).
 - 3. The church is Singular (not Cingular) in number.
- C. Items that belong to famous people take on great value, (even if you and I wouldn't care anything about them).
Examples:
 - 1. A singer/actress (Cher) had an auction of 700 items. Raised over 3 million dollars.
 - 2. Someone picked up a wad of bubble gum spit out by Luis Gonzalez of the Arizona Diamondbacks and sold it on Ebay.
- D. The church is the greatest institution on the earth because she belongs to THE LORD.
 - a. It was purchased by His blood. **Acts 20:28**
 - b. It was planned, prophesied, purchased by Jesus.
- E. He is the head of the church - the body. “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” **Ephesians 1:22-23**.
- F. The church that belongs to Christ bears His name, **Romans 16:16**.

II. THE CHURCH HAS THE RIGHT MESSAGE.

- A. Provided that the truth is being taught.
- B. The message of the church comes from the one who owns the church.
 - 1. He has all authority **Matthew 28:18**.
 - 2. He alone has the right to determine what message the world needs.
 - 3. “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. **John 12:48**.
- C. For our message to be the right message, it must be THE LORD'S message.
- D. What is that message?
 - 1. The D B R of Jesus, **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**.

2. God loves you, *John 3:16*.
 3. God wants YOU to be saved, “who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” *1 Timothy 2:4*; “not willing that any should perish,” *2 Peter 3:9*.
 4. God has provided a way of salvation for you, *Romans 1:16*.
- E. The word gospel means “good news.” The BEST news I can tell you today is that salvation is possible through the sacrifice of Jesus.
- F. THAT is the message that comes forth from the LORD’S CHURCH.

III. THE CHURCH HAS THE RIGHT MISSION.

- A. *NOT JUST A SOCIAL CLUB*.
- B. The mission of the church is to save souls.
1. Jesus went about teaching and preaching while in a physical body, *Cf. Luke 19:10*.
 2. He wants His spiritual body to do the same.
- C. Jesus gave the Great Commission to His followers, *Mark 16:15-16*.
What makes the commission great?
1. Its *AUTHORITY* - from Jesus
 2. Its *SCOPE* - All World
 3. Its *POWER* to save - found in the gospel Romans 1:16.
- D. God called Isaiah for a great mission, Isaiah 6:1-8.
1. “Whom shall I send?”
 2. Isaiah: “*Here am I, send me.*” *Isaiah 6:8*.
- E. He likewise calls us to a great mission.
ILLUSTRATION: The job of the church is not to impact the church, but to impact the world. It’s like a huddle in a football game. 67,000 people don’t pay \$25.00 a ticket to watch the Titans huddle. What if you went to a Titans game and for 2 ½ hours you watched 11 men stand in a circle and talk? That’s not what you pay for!! 67,000 people pay \$25 a ticket to see what difference the huddle makes. What they want to know is, having called the play in secret, does it work in public? The challenge for the church is not what we do when we call our Sunday morning huddle, but what we do when we break our huddle and head to our Sunday morning assignment.
- F. Are we fulfilling our mission for the Lord?

IV. THE CHURCH CONTAINS THE RIGHT PEOPLE, *2 Timothy 2:10*.

- A. By right people, I don’t mean *PERFECT* people.
1. None of us are perfect. You might look around and think that others are perfect people who have perfect marriages, perfect children, etc., but we all struggle with things.
 2. Seen on a church sign: “*The Church is the perfect place for people who aren’t.*”

- B. The right people are those who are not perfect, just forgiven.
 - 1. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. *Ephesians 1:7.*
 - 2. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. *1 John 1:7.*
- C. To be in Christ means to be in His spiritual body, the Church:
 - 1.
 - “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” *Eph 1:22-23.*
 - D. The church contains those who are SAVED, because — SALVATION IS FOUND IN THE CHURCH: “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the *salvation which is in Christ Jesus* with eternal glory.” **2 Timothy 2:10.**
 - E. HOW DOES ONE GET INTO CHRIST WHERE SALVATION IS FOUND? “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were *baptized into Christ* have put on Christ.” **Galatians 3:26-27.**
 - F. This truth is illustrated in **1 Peter 3:21** – “There is also an antitype which now saves us— *baptism* (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
 - 1. Baptism is not a bath (not the removal of the filth of the flesh).
 - 2. It is the *final* (not only) step of obedience that *saves us* and therefore puts us *into Christ*.
 - G. “praising God and having favor with all the people. *And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*” **Acts 2:47. Cf. Acts 2:36-38.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. We need to remember and focus on that which is RIGHT with the church.
- B. A RELATED QUESTION: Are YOU right with God this morning?
- C. Are you in the church? Are you living faithfully?

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