

VISION SUNDAY
Fall 2018

INTRODUCTION:

1. Matthew 16:13-18

2. In the beginning the Church was a Laser-Focused Message and a Global Mission.

I. THE ORINATION OF CHURCH

A. THE CORNERSTONE OF THE CHURCH

1. Mathew 16:13-18

2. Vs 13

a) "Who do you say that the Son of Man is?"

3. Vs 14-15

a) "But who do you say that I am?"

4. Vs 16-17

5. Vs 18

a) "you are Peter (small stone),"

b) "and upon this rock (Vs 16) I will build my church"

6. The cornerstone or foundation of the church, would be the belief that, "Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) the Son of the living God."

B. BIBLICAL DEFINITION

1. Vs 18

a) "church"

1) Greek term throughout the New Testament is the word "**ekklesia**."

2. "**ekklesia**" - means a **called out** assembly or gathering of people to a specific purpose.

3. Jesus disciples understood him to say, "**I am going to build my assembly of called out people, and the foundation for this new assembly will be ME!!!!"**

4. Why is it translated, "Church"?

C. HISTORICAL DISTORTION

1. In **AD 313**, Constantine soon to be Emperor of Rome legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire.
2. Before this time, **Christianity had been outlawed because Christians insisted that Jesus, not the Emperor, was the king.**
3. **Christians refused to accept any emperor as divine.**
 - a) Consequently, the church suffered intense persecution **for the first 300 years of its existence.**
4. **After Constantine's conversion**, powerful people brought their former notions of worship with them.
 - a) Worship was changing to incorporate elements of ***imperial*** (majestic) ***protocol.*** They wanted to match worship with ***Imperialism!!***
 - b) Worship became formal and hierarchical, **relegating the congregation to mere spectators.**
5. **Within a decade the "ekklesia" ceased to be a MOVEMENT!!!** And now had become a **LOCATION.**

D. A BAD TRANSLATION

1. Germanic cultures, ***also influenced by Christianity***, used the word "***kirka***" which became "***kirche***" in modern German.
2. The word "***kirka***" meant "***house of the Lord or God***" and was used to refer to any ritual gathering place, **Christian or pagan.** (I.e. Pagan Temples)
3. The word "**Church**" is **NOT a translation.**
 - a) But a substitution for the Greek.

E. IT'S ALL ABOUT CONTROL

1. **Answer:** You can lock the doors of a "**kirche**". Not so with the "**ekklesia**" of Jesus.
2. Now whoever controlled the church building controlled the Scriptures.
3. **What began as a movement, became hierarchical, ritualized, and institutionalized,** and bore little resemblance to its origin.

II. OUR CROSSROADS STATEMENTS.

A. OUR CROSSROADS VISION STATEMENT

1. Every Vision is a solution to a problem.
2. **TWO QUESTIONS:** Every business or organization must ask 2 questions:
 - a) *What is the need or problem my vision addresses?*
 - b) *What will happen if these needs or problems continue to go unaddressed?*
3. Our culture is morally bankrupt!!!
 - a) People need Jesus real bad!!!
 - b) **Romans 3:23**
4. OUR CROSSROADS VISION IS THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM
"A Church That Produces Faithful Followers of Christ"
5. **1 Corinthians 10:31-33**

B. OUR CROSSROADS PURPOSE STATEMENT

- **TWO KEY PASSAGES**
 - a) **Matthew 22:26-40**
 - 1) The Great Commandment
 - b) **Matthew 28:19-20**
 - 1) The Great Commission
- **Therefore** - "We believe a Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a Great Church."

1. WE ARE TO LOVE GOD

- a) We are to **LOVE GOD** with everything we've got.
 - 1) **Mark 12:28-31**
 - a) "with all your **heart**" - emotions
 - b) "with all your **soul**" - that's who you are
 - c) "with all your **mind**" - intellect
 - d) "with all your **strength**" - physically
 - b) **Through Worship** (Expressions of Worship) - **John 4:23**
 - 1) **Ephesians 5:19**
 - a. Singing, worship

2) *Philippians 4:4-7*

3) *John 17:17*

a. Learning the Word

4) *1 Corinthians 16:1-2*

a. Through our giving

c) Through Discipleship

1) *Matthew 28:16-20*

2) Disciple - is a learner, pupil, follower

a. *Acts 6:7*

2. WE ARE TO LOVE EACH OTHER

a) FELLOWSHIP

1) Small Group Bible Studies

a. *Acts 2:46*

2) Service

a. *1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27*

3. FINALLY - WE ARE TO LOVE THE WORLD TO CHRIST

a) THROUGH SERVING

1) *Matthew 5:13-16*

b) THROUGH EVANGELISM

1) *Matthew 28:19-20*

2) *Luke 14:15-24*

C. OUR CROSSROADS MISSION STATEMENT

1. A mission statement is a *written declaration* of an organizations ultimate mission and goal.

2. TO REACH BEDFORD COUNTY WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST USING EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE.