

Question 2279

WHAT IS CHURCH!

Answer:

1. In this Bible Study, our only task is to know the definition of church!
2. Many Christians point to a building and say: “This is my church”!
3. However, what is *church*?
4. How does the LORD God define *church*?
5. How did Jesus Christ define *church*?
6. When people refer to different denominations, they say “all the different churches”, but what is *church*?
7. A building, whether glass building, or cement building, or wooden building, as long as it is a physical building, it is NOT a church! Let us consider the following verses to confirm our doctrine:
 - i. **Acts 7:48 (KJV)** Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,
 - ii. **Acts 17:24 (KJV)** God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
 - iii. **Acts 17:25 (KJV)** Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
8. A church is a group, a collection, or a congregation of believers in the LORD Jesus Christ who are daily obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
 - i. **1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 3:17 (KJV)** If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

- iii. **1 Corinthians 6:19 (KJV)** 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?
 - iv. **1 Corinthians 14:23 (KJV)** If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?
 - v. **2 Corinthians 6:16 (KJV)** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 9. The group, the collection, or the congregation of believers in the LORD Jesus Christ is also called Christians, therefore, a church is a collection of Christians, male and female:
 - i. **Matthew 16:18 (KJV)** *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
 - ii. **Acts 26:28 (KJV)** Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.
 - iii. **1 Peter 4:16 (KJV)** Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.
- 10. In this present physical world, the church is invisible and the true Christians are also invisible because humans do not build the church but ONLY Jesus Christ!
 - i. **1 Samuel 16:7 (KJV)** But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.
 - ii. **Matthew 16:18 (KJV)** *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
 - iii. **John 18:36 (KJV)** Jesus answered, *My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants*

fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

- iv. **1 Corinthians 3:11 (KJV)** For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
11. Now, because the true children of God Almighty are invisible and hidden, many also have the chance to mingle themselves with the true Christians of God and they pretend to be Christians when they are not!
- i. **Psalm 83:3 (KJV)** They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.
 - ii. **Matthew 13:24 (KJV)** Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:**
 - iii. **Matthew 13:25 (KJV)** But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.
 - iv. **Matthew 13:26 (KJV)** But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.
 - v. **Matthew 13:27 (KJV)** So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?
 - vi. **Matthew 13:28 (KJV)** He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?
 - vii. **Matthew 13:29 (KJV)** But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.
 - viii. **Matthew 13:30 (KJV)** Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.
12. Are Christians then completely blindsided, so that we shall never know who the true children of God are?
13. There is ONLY ONE WAY to know the children of God Almighty: by their fruits!

- i. **Matthew 13:38 (KJV)** The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;
- ii. **Matthew 7:15 (KJV)** Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
- iii. **Matthew 7:16 (KJV)** Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

14. What are fruits?

15. Fruits are words from your lips!

- i. **Proverbs 18:20 (KJV)** A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; *and* with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.
- ii. **Isaiah 57:19 (KJV)** I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to *him that is* far off, and to *him that is* near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.
- iii. **Hebrews 13:15 (KJV)** By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

16. Therefore, when Jesus Christ reveals in **Matthew 7:16 (KJV)** that you shall know the children of Satan by their fruits, Jesus is saying that because they are of Satan, they can never produce words from the Word of God that ONLY Holy Spirit gives!

- i. **John 14:26 (KJV)** But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
- ii. **John 15:26 (KJV)** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
- iii. **John 16:12 (KJV)** I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.
- iv. **John 16:13 (KJV)** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

17. A true Christian or a true child of God is he/she who produces words/fruits by the Spirit of God Almighty!

- i. **John 3:34 (KJV)** For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure *unto him*.
- ii. **John 6:63 (KJV)** *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

18. The true Christian loves the Word of God, therefore, when you meet someone who has time for everything else BUT the Word of God, or someone who is not comfortable talking about God Almighty, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit, someone who does not read the Word of God daily, someone who will switch the topic to worldly things whenever you bring up discussions on Jesus Christ and righteousness, someone who claims that religion is personal and private and so he/she will not discuss his/her worship with you, then know and remember the words of the LORD Jesus Christ as follows:

- i. **Joshua 1:8 (KJV)** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
- ii. **Matthew 7:16 (KJV)** *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*
- iii. **Matthew 7:20 (KJV)** *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

19. At the beginning of this Bible Study, we said that a church is a group, a collection, or a congregation of believers in the LORD Jesus Christ who are daily obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

20. A church is therefore a School for Spiritual Instruction in Righteousness using the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that the group, the collection, or the congregation will remain daily obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

- i. **Psalm 2:10 (KJV)** Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
- ii. **Matthew 13:52 (KJV)** Then said he unto them, *Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a*

man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

21. When those two things are taking place in a church, that is (1) instruction in the Word of God and (2) the congregation walking daily in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then, that is when you have a true church and true children of God and true Christians!
 - i. **Luke 1:6 (KJV)** And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.
 - ii. **Acts 9:31 (KJV)** Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.
 - iii. **2 John 4 (KJV)** I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.
22. The emphasis in the above definition of church is NOT on “the group of believers”, but on “the daily obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ”!
23. Hence, a person who claims to be a Christian but lives contrary to the Word of God is NOT a Christian neither is he/she a member of the Church: the Body of Christ!
24. The location of the church, which, again, is a group, a collection, or a congregation of believers in the LORD Jesus Christ who are daily obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, its location does not matter hence a physical location is not required for a church to be a church!
 - i. **John 4:19 (KJV)** The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.
 - ii. **John 4:20 (KJV)** Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.
 - iii. **John 4:21 (KJV)** Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.**
 - iv. **John 4:22 (KJV)** Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

- v. **John 4:23 (KJV)** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.
 - vi. **John 4:24 (KJV)** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.
25. Likewise, its name does not matter and is not required for the church to be a church!
26. For the sake of easy reference, a church takes on the name of the place where the group or congregation usually meets or is located, such as, the church at Ephesus, or, the church at Sunyani, or, the church that is in Kwesi's house, and so on and so forth!
- i. **Romans 16:1 (KJV)** I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 1:1 (KJV)** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:
 - iii. **Colossians 4:15 (KJV)** Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nympha, and the church which is in his house.
 - iv. **Colossians 4:16 (KJV)** And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea.
 - v. **Colossians 4:16 (KJV)** And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea.
 - vi. **2 Thessalonians 1:1 (KJV)** Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - vii. **1 Peter 5:13 (KJV)** The *church that is* at Babylon, elected together with *you*, saluteth you; and *so doth* Marcus my son.
27. The church is the Body of Jesus Christ!
- i. **Colossians 1:24 (KJV)** Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

28. Now that we have defined the church and we know that a church has multiple locations and multiple names, how can one then recognize a true church?
29. As we said above, you can identify and recognize the true church by this definition:
 - i. A church is an occasion or opportunity to read, teach, and understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
30. In other words, whenever the group, the collection, or the congregation of believers in the LORD Jesus Christ who are daily obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whenever they meet, in any of the multiple locations and under any of the multiple names, ONLY THREE THINGS must be evident in order to qualify as a church!
 - i. Reading, teaching, and causing to understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
31. The second or middle activity, *teaching*, is central, pivotal, and all-encompassing because it overlaps both the first and third activities of *reading* and *causing to understand*!
32. It is because the second or middle activity, which is *teaching*, also covers *reading* and *understanding*, that as why Jesus Christ gave this command to teach in **Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)**:
 - i. **Matthew 28:18 (KJV)** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**
 - ii. **Matthew 28:19 (KJV)** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
 - iii. **Matthew 28:20 (KJV)** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, **even unto the end of the world.** Amen.
33. We shall now see several evidences to cause you to understand the true church!
34. This is not a church taking place here in **Luke 9:11-17 (KJV)** because the three elements in the definition of a church are missing!
 - i. **Luke 9:11 (KJV)** And the people, when they knew *it*, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.
 - ii. **Luke 9:12 (KJV)** And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they

- may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.
- iii. **Luke 9:13 (KJV)** But he said unto them, **Give ye them to eat.** And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.
 - iv. **Luke 9:14 (KJV)** For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, **Make them sit down by fifties in a company.**
 - v. **Luke 9:15 (KJV)** And they did so, and made them all sit down.
 - vi. **Luke 9:16 (KJV)** Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.
 - vii. **Luke 9:17 (KJV)** And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.
35. In other words, we learn from **Luke 9:11-17 (KJV)** that church people or the congregation can meet but there may be NO church taking place amongst them, and that is the situation with about 100% of the churches in the world today!
36. Almost all churches today meet for about two to five hours, or even the whole day, but reading, teaching, and understanding the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be given only about 20 minutes, and the rest of the time for personal, carnal, social, worldly, checking the phone, chatting, material things, money collections, drumming and dancing activities!
37. This is a church taking place here on the street or on a park, because the three-point criteria for a true church is manifestly taking place here in **Nehemiah 8:1-8 (KJV):** (1) the reading, (2) the teaching of the Word of God and, (3) “causing *them* to understand the reading”!
- i. **Nehemiah 8:1 (KJV)** And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that *was* before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.
 - ii. **Nehemiah 8:2 (KJV)** And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

- iii. **Nehemiah 8:3 (KJV)** And he read therein before the street that *was* before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* unto the book of the law.
 - iv. **Nehemiah 8:4 (KJV)** And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam.
 - v. **Nehemiah 8:5 (KJV)** And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:
 - vi. **Nehemiah 8:6 (KJV)** And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.
 - vii. **Nehemiah 8:7 (KJV)** Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people *stood* in their place.
 - viii. **Nehemiah 8:8 (KJV)** So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.
38. We shall now see a second evidence to cause you to understand the true church!
39. At the very first meeting of the congregation in the Ministry of Jesus Christ, He showed us how to conduct church, and we see in Jesus' first physical church meeting that He exemplified all the three defining characteristics of a true church, which are: reading, teaching, and causing to understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
- i. **Matthew 5:1 (KJV)** And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

- ii. **Matthew 5:2 (KJV)** And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
 - iii. **Matthew 5:3 (KJV)** *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- 40. Take note very carefully that, in the very first meeting with the congregation, covering the whole of Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7, Jesus Christ did ONLY three things: reading, teaching, and causing to understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
 - i. **Matthew 7:28 (KJV)** And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:
 - ii. **Matthew 7:29 (KJV)** For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.
- 41. Is that what you do in your church today?
- 42. If you do not follow Jesus Christ in His Ministry, then why do you falsely claim to be a Minister of Jesus Christ?
- 43. Is Jesus Christ then the Chief Minister of liars as you are?
- 44. Some churches think that singing many hymns, sitting, watching wicked men and women clad in deceptive clothing in the choir displaying to human admiration and clapping, and drumming and dancing, are sanctimonious parts of church worship when nothing of all such church foolishness is recognized in Heaven!
- 45. If all your church activities including all your drumming, dancing, and choir performances are Heaven-ordained, then, tell me why Jesus Christ and all the Apostles never practised them nor teach any doctrines on them in the entire Holy Bible!
- 46. Show me also in the Old Testament where the LORD God Almighty ordained musical instruments, drumming, and dancing as part of the worship in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant of the Congregation of Israel!
- 47. Show me also where the ministrations of Jesus Christ in His entire Ministry were preceded by choir performances or singing of hymns and songs?
- 48. Take note very carefully, that just as the church leaders did in **Nehemiah 8:1-8 (KJV)**, that aside those three defining characteristics of a true church, Jesus Christ also did nothing else but reading, teaching, and causing to understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

49. Here is a second evidence of a true church that was focused ONLY on reading, teaching, and causing to understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

- i. **Acts 20:7 (KJV)** And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.
- ii. **Acts 20:8 (KJV)** And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.
- iii. **Acts 20:9 (KJV)** And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.
- iv. **Acts 20:10 (KJV)** And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing *him* said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.
- v. **Acts 20:11 (KJV)** When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.
- vi. **Acts 20:12 (KJV)** And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

50. Here is a third evidence of a true church that was focused ONLY on reading, teaching, and causing to understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

- i. **Acts 15:1 (KJV)** And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.
- ii. **Acts 15:2 (KJV)** When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.
- iii. **Acts 15:3 (KJV)** And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

- iv. **Acts 15:4 (KJV)** And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and *of* the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.
- v. **Acts 15:5 (KJV)** But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.
- vi. **Acts 15:6 (KJV)** And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.
- vii. **Acts 15:19 (KJV)** Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:
- viii. **Acts 15:20 (KJV)** But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and *from* fornication, and *from* things strangled, and *from* blood.
- ix. **Acts 15:21 (KJV)** For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.
- x. **Acts 15:22 (KJV)** Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; *namely*, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:
- xi. **Acts 15:23 (KJV)** And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:
- xii. **Acts 15:24 (KJV)** Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment:
- xiii. **Acts 15:25 (KJV)** It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
- xiv. **Acts 15:26 (KJV)** Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- xv. **Acts 15:27 (KJV)** We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell *you* the same things by mouth.

- xvi. **Acts 15:28 (KJV)** For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;
 - xvii. **Acts 15:29 (KJV)** That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.
 - xviii. **Acts 15:30 (KJV)** So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:
 - xix. **Acts 15:31 (KJV)** *Which* when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.
 - xx. **Acts 15:32 (KJV)** And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed *them*.
51. Brethren, it is ONLY when you operate church the correct way, as revealed in **Acts 15:1-32 (KJV)**, focusing ONLY on reading, teaching, and causing to understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that the church can be established in the Faith of Jesus Christ even as the LORD God has revealed in **Acts 16:4-5 (KJV)**!
- i. **Acts 16:4 (KJV)** And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.
 - ii. **Acts 16:5 (KJV)** And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.
52. In conclusion, when you teach the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and help people to understand it, in obedience to **Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)**, that is when and only when you are fulfilling the Great Commission call of your Ministry!
53. Nothing else that you do as a congregation matters to Heaven or qualifies as a church, but only the teaching and helping people to understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and this Commission, you can do face-to-face, over the phone, over the Internet, by letters, by pamphlets, by books, by dreams, and by any other means possible!
54. The moment teaching and helping people to understand the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ stops, then there is no church and Jesus Christ is not in your midst!

- i. **Matthew 18:20 (KJV)** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
 - ii. **Matthew 28:20 (KJV)** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
55. Of all the many church activities that congregations busy themselves with from morning until night, ONLY ONE of them is guaranteed to bring Jesus Christ to the scene and that is “**Teaching**” as **Matthew 28:20 (KJV)** reveals, hence we said that a church is a School for Spiritual Instruction in Righteousness using the Word of God the Gospel of Jesus Christ!
- i. **Luke 10:38 (KJV)** Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.
 - ii. **Luke 10:39 (KJV)** And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.
 - iii. **Luke 10:40 (KJV)** But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.
 - iv. **Luke 10:41 (KJV)** And Jesus answered and said unto her, **Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:**
 - v. **Luke 10:42 (KJV)** **But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.**
56. Looking at **Luke 10:38-42 (KJV)** from the outside and judging from the many people, the physical presence of Jesus Christ, the going and coming, the energy, the enthusiasm, the zeal, the clapping, the hallelujah, the bright and smiling faces, the heightened emotions of the people, foolish Pastors and ignorant Christians will easily conclude that: “oh wow, we are having church...church is wonderful today...this is church...God is truly blessing us...we are truly a Spirit-filled church...”, yet, Jesus Christ condemned all those many church activities and many church programs and said that only ONE person was having church and that was Mary!
57. Why only Mary out of this great happy multitude?

58. Here is the answer: “she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word”!

- i. **Luke 10:39 (KJV)** And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.
- ii. **Luke 10:42 (KJV)** But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

59. Did you see in the answer of Jesus Christ that in all those many church activities and many church programs going on under the leadership of Martha, there was zero Teaching of the Word of God over there! That was why Jesus Christ condemned all those many church activities and many church programs!

60. In other words, Teaching the Word of God is the central pillar of any church that is worth its salt, else, without Bible Teaching taking the main and only role, it is NOT a church!

61. Behold, I have shown you what church truly is, therefore, go and do likewise!

62. This Word in **2 Kings 17:13 (KJV)** is the true work of the true Man of God, the true Prophet of God, the true Seer of God, the true Pastor of God!

- i. **2 Kings 17:13 (KJV)** Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, *and by* all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments *and* my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

63. Therefore, from **2 Kings 17:13 (KJV)**, the true work of the true Man of God is as follows:

- i. Know the commandments, the statutes, and all the law of the LORD God Almighty!
- ii. Watch the people as the Watcher from Heaven to know what they do and what they say, to know if there be anything evil and contrary against the commandments, the statutes, and all the law of the LORD God Almighty!
- iii. If yes, then testify against them by the Word of God the commandments, the statutes, and all the law of the LORD God Almighty so that they will know wherein they have done evil against the LORD God!

- iv. If they hear you and turn away from their evil ways to the LORD God Almighty, then you are free from their blood!
 - v. If they will not hear you and continue in their sins, they will surely die in their sins, but you have done your work, you have washed your hands from their guilty blood, and you are guiltless when they die in their sins!
64. That is the whole and entire work of the true Man of God!
65. In another dimension, let us see how the central role of Bible Teaching impacts and characterizes another Office in the Body of Christ.
66. Take note very carefully where the Prophet/Prophetess dwells, meaning the work place or Office of the Prophet/Prophetess!
- i. **2 Kings 22:14 (KJV)** So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her.
67. Huldah the Prophetess “dwelt in Jerusalem in the college and they communed with her”!
68. Did you see the word “College/University” in **2 Kings 22:14 (KJV)**?
69. Do you see clearly the workplace or Office of the Prophet/Prophetess?
70. It is in a College/University, NOT IN A CHURCH!
71. Why should the Prophet/Prophetess work in a College/University?
72. Because his/her work is to study the Word of God the Book of the LORD and then teach it to the people faithfully!
- i. **Jeremiah 3:15 (KJV)** And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.
 - ii. **Jeremiah 23:28 (KJV)** The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.
 - iii. **Malachi 2:7 (KJV)** For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he *is* the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

- iv. **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
73. Therefore, the true work of the Prophet/Prophetess, the true work of the true Man of God, the true Prophet of God, the true Seer of God, the true Pastor of God, is to read and study the Word of God, the Book of the LORD so that he/she can commune (have lectures) as a College Professor with the people even as **2 Kings 22:14 (KJV)** reveals!
74. It is because the workplace or Office of the Prophet/Prophetess is in a College/University, and NOT IN A CHURCH that is why we teach that Christianity is a Spiritual School to Impart the right Knowledge to attain Heaven?
75. And that is why we also define Church as a visible and invisible School of believers in Jesus Christ whose main objective is the spiritual instruction of the believers and using the Holy Bible as the only curriculum.
76. Do you now have a better understanding of The Bible University?

The LORD Jesus Christ be with your spirit. The LORD Jesus Christ give you understanding.

Rev. Prof. Peter Pryce, Ph.D.

A Scribe of the Law of the God of Heaven

Prophet of the Word of God

Monday 18th April 2022 @ 12:31 AM – 2:27 PM

While hearing and meditating on the Word of God

Silver Spring, MD, USA

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