

THE CHURCH

What is your concept of the church?

HOW DO YOU VIEW THE CHURCH?

- **Is the Church the Building?**
- **Is the Church like a PTA Organization?**
- **Is the Church like a Movie?**
- **The Church is compared to a family or a kingdom – 1 Tim 3:15; Col 1:13; Rev 1:6**
- **Is the Church like a Family or a Country?**



USE OF CHURCH IN THE BIBLE

- **Church**
 - **The name for the assembly that meets together periodically** (Acts 20:17; 1 Cor 11:18; 1 Cor 16:19)
 - **The people that collectively make up the group - e.g. Christians** (Acts 8:3; Acts 12:1; Acts 14:27; Acts 20:28)



CHRISTIAN VERSUS CHURCH

- **Differences in the terms:**
 - **Christian stresses the individual**
 - **Church stresses the Group or Community**
- **What Happens on the Day of Judgment?**
 - **The Christian is raised to be with God (1 Thess 4:13-18)**
 - **The Church (kingdom) is given to God (1 Cor 15:20-25)**



KINGDOM COMPARED TO THE CHURCH

- **Choose candidate kingdom to compare to**
 - **America – Man made kingdom**
 - **Israel – God formed kingdom**
 - **Israel which was the object of the old covenant is replaced by the church of the new testament (Heb 8:7-13)**
 - **Therefore we can look at Israel is a pattern for the church**



THE PURPOSE OF ISRAEL / CHURCH

- **The purpose of Israel was to Glorify, Respect, and Honor God** (Mal 1:5-6, 10-11, 14; Isa 62:1-2)
- **The purpose of the Church is to Glorify, Respect, and Honor God** (Eph 3:21, Eph 5:25-27; Phil 1:9-11)



THE REVIVAL OF ISRAEL

Task	Information	Reference
Built the Altar	Establish communications with God	Ezra 3:2-3
Built the Temple	Establish the worship of God	Ezra 6:13-15
Brought Israel Back	Bring God's people to Him	Ezra 7:1, 6-10
Purified Everyone	To be in the presence of God	Ezra 6:19-21
Teach and Judge	To make all capable and accountable	Ezra 7:25-26
Built the Wall	To separate from the World	Neh. 1-6
Read and Learn Law	To know the will of God	Neh. 8:1-5
Promise to Obey	Ensure covenant is bidirectional	Neh. 10:28-39
Renew and Dedicate	Constantly monitor and keep on track	Neh. 13



THE NON-FUNCTIONAL COMMUNITY

- **They profaned God's Name among the nations and disgraced Him (Eze 36:19-23, 39:21-24)**
- **They did not honor God and He just wanted them to go away (Mal 1:6, 10)**
- **They found worshipping God to be tiresome and worthless (Mal 1:13)**
- **They thought they could define truth and resist God's purification, but God will not be deterred from His plan (Mal 3:1-4)**



THE SOLUTION TO THEIR ISSUES

- **Return – be God’s remnant (Mal 3:7-12)**
- **If Israel will not respond, God will not be stopped - there will be a cleansing and a restoration (Mal 4:1-6)**



SUMMARY

- **What is the Church?**
 - **It is a community dedicated to glorifying god and honoring his name**
 - **We are not members to get, but to give (the church does provide, but giving should be our primary goal)**
 - **When all give, those things we need are provided**
 - **If we are not doing our part, we have failed god and the church and we dishonor and shame His name before the world**
 - **The church will be delivered to God – pure and holy and without blame – will you be part of it?**

