

TODAY'S CHURCH – 2
MARCH 4, 2018

EPHESIANS 2:19-22 (ESV)

God's Word is not silent about the purpose and function of the Body of Christ. Individually and collectively we are God's dwelling place on earth. The church exists for a threefold purpose – worship, discipleship and evangelism. One day God will literally dwell among us. Until then, we are His dwelling place.

1. Worship. JOHN 4:20-24

- A.** We glorify God when we worship Him the way He wants to be worshipped.
- B. PSALMS 95 and 96** provide the message, motive, methods and mindset.

2. Discipleship. EPHESIANS 4:11-16

- A.** Salvation touches all three dimensions of man – spirit, soul and body. The spirit needs regenerated, the soul needs renewed and the body needs controlled.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, ROMANS 12:1-2
- B.** The biblical terms are justification, regeneration, transformation and sanctification.
- C.** The goal is being conformed to Christ's image. **ROMANS 8:29**
- D.** The motive being our glorified body and blessed hope. **ROMANS 8:22-25** and **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**
- E.** The mindset is found in **2 TIMOTHY 2:19-21**. We should want to be vessels of honor the Spirit can use, and **PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5**.

3. Evangelism. MARK 16:15-20

- A.** Message: We are eternal spirit beings that will never cease to exist. We are living in the land of the dying. When we die, we go to the land of the living. Where we spend eternity is not up to God, it's up to us.
- B. ROMANS 5:8 (AMPC)** – What others think of us is not what really matters. God thinks we are worth dying for, so He sent Jesus to save us from eternal separation and suffering. Our part is found in **ROMANS 10:8-13**.

CONCLUSION:

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIS CHURCH

- 1. MATTHEW 21:12-16** – It's a house of purity, prayer, power and perfected praise. It's not to be misused or abused as the religious leaders did. Jesus cleansed the Temple twice for a reason. It's easy to fall back to old patterns and revert to old ways. We are to take this to heart. **2 CORINTHIANS 6:16-7:1** - The grace that blesses us also teaches us to live right. **TITUS 2:12-15**
- 2. MATTHEW 16:18-19** – The church is a force the gates of hell will not prevail over. No matter how far we fall short, Jesus will never allow the church to be defeated. We must use our authority and bind the works of evil and release the miracle working power of God that saves, heals, delivers, protects and provides everything we need to be victorious today.