

Sermon Study Guide – October 14th, 2018:

Today's Focus – "God Wants a Church that Stands Forever"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ As we continue our series, "Church Shopping with God", what types of things stand out at you as you look for/at a church?
- ◆ What kinds of things do people look for in churches, which are fleeting or superficial? How about you? Do you look for a church that "stands forever", or a church for the moment?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 16:13-18

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

How does today's sermon show you how God wants you to live your life? (i.e. What good works does this motivate us to do?)

Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. In what way in our sermon text do we see our theme, that “God wants a church that stands forever”?
2. What kinds of things might we be tempted to “build” our churches on, which work against our theme?
3. How does Jesus’ life (especially the latter portion) show that church isn’t often what people make it out to be?
4. How does Jesus offer something better than anything else we can look for in a church?
5. How does Jesus affect the way we look at, or “do” church? (*hint: focus on what we say about the message, the music, and the motive!*)

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ In our sermon we talked about how building the church on the “bedrock” of Christ as Savior will affect things like the Message and Music of a church, or our Motives for going to church. How can it affect a few other “M”-things like...
 - ...Membership and participation in a church?
 - ...Ministries that a church will want to offer?
 - ...Money—how we give offerings, or how a church uses them?

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: *review* Is. 25:1-9, Col. 1:15-23

Tuesday: Ephesians 5:1-20

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 16

Thursday: Matt. 11:1-19, 25-40

Friday: Matthew 15:1-16:12

Saturday: *review* Matt. 16:13-28