

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST NEEDED TODAY!

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INTRODUCTION:

1. The church is a very important institution!
 - a. In the mind of God before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Eph. 3:10).
 - b. Established by the Son of God (Matthew 16:18). The church is the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23).
2. Since the church is important to God, then it follows that she should be important to us! For this reason, we must strive to be the church of Christ that God would have us to be!
3. In this lesson we will examine two points of discussion regarding the church that God would have us to be: **(1)** A knowledgeable church in the Scriptures, and **(2)** An evangelistic church.
4. May God help us to be doers of His Word (James 1:22; Luke 11:28).

I. GOD DESIRES A CHURCH THAT IS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE SCRIPTURES.

1. **The command to be knowledgeable in the Scriptures** (2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 3:18; Colossians 3:16).
2. **The attitude needed to be knowledgeable in the Scriptures** **(1)** We must love God's Word (Psalm 119:97), **(2)** We must desire God's Word (1 Peter 2:2-1; Job 23:12), **(3)** We must respect God's Word (Colossians 3:17).
3. Let us learn from history: We used to be known as people of the Book!
4. **How may we grow in the knowledge of God's Word?** **(1)** By taking time to read the Bible (1 Timothy 4:13), **(2)** By spending time memorizing Scriptures (Psalm 119:11), **(3)** By being diligent students of the Word (2 Timothy 2:15).
5. **Benefits of Bible knowledge:** **(1)** We can grow spiritually (1 Pet. 2:2), **(2)** We can be saved (James 1:21), **(3)** We can be ready to become apologists for God (1 Peter 3:15), **(4)** We will show God we love His Word.

II. GOD DESIRES A CHURCH THAT IS EVANGELISTIC IN SPIRIT.

1. We cannot read the entire Book of Acts and not come to this conclusion!
2. **The command to be an evangelistic church:** Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17; Luke 5:10).
3. The example of the first century church (Acts 1:8; 8:4).
4. **The benefits of an evangelistic church** **(1)** Numerical growth (2:41; 4:4; 5:14, 28; 6:4; 8:12; 10; 11:24; 12:24; 14:4; 17:6—Church grow will never be accomplished unless the evangelized becomes an evangelist), **(2)** People will be given an opportunity to be saved (Romans 1:16), **(3)** We will obey the command to go and reach out to the lost (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20).
5. **Things necessary to be an evangelistic church:** **(1)** The desire to obey the command, **(2)** training in evangelism (Matthew 4:19), **(3)** true love for souls (Mark 12:31), **(4)** Be willing to suffer for the Lord (Acts 8:1-4).
6. We need to be an evangelistic church! We can do it with God's help!

CONCLUSION:

1. May God help us to be a church that is knowledgeable in the Scriptures, and a church that is evangelistic in spirit!