

State of the Church Address

What's Right About Our Church

Matt 16:13-18

Introduction:

1. It would be easy to find someone who would tell you what is wrong with our church
 - a. Too many hypocrites in our church
 - b. There is too much emphasis on money
 - c. The people are not very friendly
 - d. The services are too long
 - e. The pews are too hard
 - f. The singers missed a note
 - g. And a myriad other faults people could find in our church or in any church
2. Worse than the world finding fault with our church, would be Christians who find fault, criticize, or tear apart our church and it's people
3. We have looked back over the previous year and some things were not satisfactory, but I don't want to focus on them this morning
4. I want to take our remaining time and look at what is right with our church

I. It is Founded on the Right Person – Jesus Christ

A. The Lord Built His Church Upon Himself – Matt 16:18

18 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.

1. The rock is Jesus – not Peter or his confession
2. 1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
3. Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

B. The Gates of Hell Cannot Prevail Against It

1. If the Lord's church was founded on Peter, then the gates of hell could prevail against it
 - a) *After all, didn't Satan cause Peter to deny Christ*
 - b) *Lu 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:*
2. Since His church is founded on Christ, then the gates of hell cannot prevail against it
 - a) *Jesus is the foundation*
 - b) *Man is drifting sand, a reed in the wind*
 - c) *God is unmoved by the forces of evil*

II. It is Backed by the Right Power – Holy Spirit

A. Power of the Holy Spirit

1. Too often we operate in the power of the flesh
2. All energy is wasted effort apart from Him
3. Our work is worthless unless He is the spring and source of it
4. All we do is doomed to failure without His direction

B. He Guides Us Into All Truth – Jn 16:13

13 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.

1. We need the same Spirit to guide us
2. See the power of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost
3. The church at Antioch asked for the leadership of the Spirit when selecting missionaries

Ac 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

C. Are We Depending on the Leadership and Power of the Holy Spirit?

1. If the Spirit left us, would things go on pretty much as they always do?
2. Are we working in the energy of the flesh

III. It is Bound by the Right Principle – God's Word

A. Our Rule of Faith and Practice – Heb 4:12

1. It is never outdated
 - a) *We live in a modern age, the past is behind us*
 - b) *Nothing is as old or boring as yesterday's news*
 - c) *Things change quickly, styles come and go, things go out of date quickly*
2. Like God, the Bible is changeless and unchangeable
3. Though 2000 yrs old, is new and fresh to those who love it

B. The Bible is Profitable – 2 Tim 3:16

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

1. Profitable for doctrine – what is right
2. Profitable for reproof – what is not right
3. Profitable for correction – how to get right
4. Profitable for instruction in righteousness – how to stay right

IV. It is Built in the Right Place – the World

A. The World Needs What Our Church Has

1. We are to be the salt of the earth
2. We are to be the light of the world

B. We Are To Change the World

1. The world wants to change us
2. The world wants us to conform to it's standards
3. We are to occupy – Lu 19:13
13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

V. Its Busy at the Right Program – Great Commission

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 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.

A. We Should Be Reaching and Teaching

1. All power – source of our authority
2. All nations – sphere of our activity
3. All things – scope of our teaching
4. Always – time of Christ's presence

B. Go

1. Because the need is great
2. Because the command is urgent
3. Because death is coming
4. Because the laborers are few and the harvest is white
5. Because this may be the last opportunity

VI. It is Powered by the Right Financial Plan - Tithing

A. God's Plan is the Tithe – 1 Cor 16:2

2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

1. Give periodically – the first day of the week
2. Give personally – everyone of you
3. Give providentially – as God has prospered
4. Give proportionately – as God has prospered
5. Give preventively – no gatherings

B. The History of Tithing

1. Abraham started it – Gen 14:20
2. Jacob continued it – Gen 28:22
3. Moses incorporated it – Lev 27:30
4. Nehemiah restored it – Neh 13:11, 12
5. Malachi commanded it – Mal 3:10
6. Jesus commended it – Matt 23:23
7. God ordained it – 2 Cor 9:13
8. Paul explained it – 1 Cor 16:2

VII. It is a Body of the Right People - Believers

A. Baptized Believers – Acts 2:41

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

1. Peter expected the Lord's church to be comprised of...
 - a) *People who have gladly received God's Word*
 - b) *People who then were baptized*
 - c) *People whom God then added to the church*
2. Believers were first called Christians at Antioch

B. Benefits of a Saved Church Membership

1. Protects the purity of the church
2. Helps unify the church
3. Encourages people to obey the Scriptures