



PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

AUGUST 6, 2017

BIBLICAL EMPHASIS:

We need to redefine the church according to the Bible. The church is a body of believers, not a building.

MAIN POINT:

The church is made up of people to whom Christ was and is revealed, and through whom a divine mission moves forward.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What are some descriptions non-Christians, either people you know or references in pop culture, have used to describe the church?
- 2 In your opinion, what is the most important thing to believe about the church?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read Matthew 16:13-16.

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 Christ, the Son of the living God."

- Why did Jesus ask His disciples who people said He was? What did their responses reveal?
- Why did people think Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets?
- Rather than question the merit of their answers, Jesus questioned the personal beliefs of His disciples. Why was this the case?
- What was significant about Peter's confession?
- What are some things that we make the church about that are not this confession?
- If Jesus is who He claimed to be, then how should this affect how we view the church?

> Read Matthew 16:17-19.

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, 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. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- What did Jesus mean by "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church"?
- If Jesus is building a church, does that mean the church is a building? Why or why not?
- The word for church in the New Testament literally means "called out ones." How does this help us to understand what Jesus meant when He used the word here?
- How have these verses been misinterpreted, misunderstood, and misused?

APPLICATION

- 1 When you speak about church, do you refer to it as a place or a group of people? Why should we always think of the church as a people?
- 2 What else can our church do to be even more Christ-centered? How can we help this happen?
- 3 Who do you know that has misconceptions about church? How might inviting them to come see what we are about help in changing their minds?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize Matthew 16:18.
- Read Genesis 12:1-3 on Monday.
- Read Acts 2:14-21 on Tuesday.
- Read Acts 2:22-28 on Wednesday.
- Read Acts 2:29-42 on Thursday.
- Read John 1:19-29 on Friday.
- Read Revelation 7:9-10 on Saturday.