The Church:

Wrap Up

Odds and Ends

**Matt. 18:20**

* When we meet with each other, we also meet with Christ
* We should see the importance of the church

**Matt. 16:18**

* Jesus came to build His church
* The church is important to Jesus

**Eph. 5:25**

* Jesus loves the church

Summary:

What is the Church?

Poem:

*The church is never a place but always a people*

*Never a fold, but always a flock*

*Never a sacred building, but always a believing assembly*

*The church is you who pray, not where you pray.*

**Rom. 16:5**

* We are the church – people make up the church
* Paul says to greet the church, and is of course not referring to the building, but to the people within it – those “in their house” as we read
* We make up the church or the body of Christ…

**Eph. 1:22-23**

* Jesus is head of the church, the church is His body
* all things have been put under Christ – and that includes the church – He has been given the authority and power over all things in regards to the church
* Jesus Christ is our King, and we are His body – for the church is the body of Christ

How Do We Get In The Church?

**Rom. 10:14-17**

* Being saved of course starts with the word of God and hearing the message contained within the word of God
* To know where to start our journey – to know where our path to salvation starts – we need to hear and read the word
* The question is posed in verse 14: how can you believe in someone you’ve never heard of?
* To know who to follow and trust in – to know where salvation lies – to know of whom holds the keys of eternal life – we need to hear the word of God – and we need to hear and understand that word

**Rom. 10:8-9**

* To be saved, we must also believe in Christ – believing wholeheartedly within our hearts – as well as confess Him
* We must believe in and trust in Jesus, relying on Him and confessing Him as our Saviour – admitting our belief in Him: in who He is and in what He has done

To Believe = -“to hold to be true, unwaveringly” + “To trust in or rely on”

* We must belief in Jesus’ existence and also trust in Him and in His teachings

**Acts 2:37-39**

* When asked what should be done to make things right – what to do to be saved – Peter said to repent and be baptized
* They needed to be sorrowful for what they had done – wanting and asking for forgiveness, as well as having the desire to turn their lives around – being on the path set forth by Christ
* They were also to be baptized for remission – or forgiveness – of sins
* And we also see that this is necessary for ALL – everyone must hear the word, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized to receive forgiveness of sins

What Do We Do In The Church?

**Acts 20:7**

* The reason we gather together is to remember Jesus Christ, our loving Saviour – and so this is a very important – if not most important – activity that we participate in as we assemble together

**Col. 3:16**

* Being in the church further roots the word of God in us through the use of singing and praising and this is another important activity for us to participate in as we teach one another through hymns and songs

**Acts 1:13-14**

* Here we have example of Christians gathering together and praying
* Prayer is a powerful tool that we have – being able to go to God and speak with Him, giving Him thanks, but also making requests onto Him – how wonderful is that?
* We can go to God in prayer at any time and are encouraged to do so often – as 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to pray without ceasing
* So it makes sense to also pray when we are with other followers of Jesus

Our assembly also proves to be a good opportunity for a collection and for teaching and learning:

* **1 Cor. 16:1-2**
* **Acts 17:10-11**

Conclusion

**1 Cor. 8:3**

* God knows His people

**John 10:14**

* Jesus knows His people

As individuals within the church that belongs to Christ - as members of His body and His family - as God's people it is good to gather together and aid one another’s learning and growing – it is good to encourage one another and uplift one another. The church is an incredible construct, put together by our Saviour Jesus Christ – let’s continue to enjoy being a part of it and look to bring others inside!