

The Church Age-Blessings and Responsibilities

Kentuckiana Christian Fellowship-----
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Matthew 16:13-18 ¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Ephesians 1:3 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

Introduction: In this lesson, I want to talk about the Church of the Lord Jesus. My topic is “*The Church Age.*” What is the duration of the Church Age? Pentecost (Acts 2) to the 2nd Coming of Christ. The Church of Christ was not present in the Old Testament. There could not be a church until after Jesus came, lived, and died and was Resurrected on the 3rd day according to the scriptures.

It was the aim of God for all, including Jew and Gentile, to be in fellowship with Him. We know that the Jews of the OT did not share that view. To fulfill the promises of God so that Jew and Gentile would have the opportunity to be reconciled together in Christ we read In **Galatians 4:4-5** words: ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

WHAT IS THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL?

Eph. 3:6. ⁶ This mystery is^[a] that the Gentiles are fellow

II. The Church Local- concerns our relationship with one another.

A. The members of the Lord’s Church are called: (Talk about these -Sumarize)

1. Disciples: Acts 20:7
2. Brothers: Heb. 2:11; Acts 6:3
3. Saints: 2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:2
4. Christians: Acts 11:26 (at Antioch)
5. Believers: Acts 5:14

B. What is the purpose of the Church?

1. Eph. 4:12-16 To equip and build up one another and mature in the faith and love.

C. Responsibilities we have a member of the Church to the lost.

1. Reach the Lost (The Great Commission) Evangelism **Matt. 28:18-20** ¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ ^[a]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you ^[a]always, even to the end of the age.”

Mark 16:15-16 ¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has

heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

On the first Pentecost after the ascension of the Lord Jesus, the Church of Christ was born. On that day, Peter, inspired of the Holy Spirit. Preached the 1st Gospel message proclaiming the Good News that the prophecy of Matt. 16:13-20 would be fulfilled.

We want to talk about the church that Jesus built. The responsibilities and privileges and blessing that we as Christians possess. Since God desires us to reach the lost with the Gospel, we must take it to the lost.

A. We have the following 2 terms in scripture for the Church:

1. The Church Universal –The company of souls redeemed by the blood of the lamb. We are the “**called out**” ones- those who are “separated. From the world.”
2. The Church local—Christians in a geographical are that work and worship together as a congregation of God’s people.

I. The Church Universal

A. Composed of ALL Christians

1. This is the church which Jesus referred to in Matt. 16:18-I will build My Church
2. It is made up of all the saved.
3. The church universal in essence concerns our relationship with Christ.

B. There is only one church-In the Church age – the Church and the kingdom are synonymous.

C. It began on the Day of Pentecost

1. In Jerusalem, following the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ-Acts 2:1-47
2. As Peter referred to this day, it was the beginning—**Acts 11:15** ¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.

D. We must be in the church to be saved.

E. It consists of all the saved.

disbelieved shall be condemned. Our Marching orders and sphere of service

a. Acts 1:8. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

b. Col. 1:12-14-Praise God We have changed Kingdoms! ¹² giving thanksto the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

D. Responsibilities as Christians towards each other.

1. Helping each other grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus—**2 Peter 3:18** ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of

our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2. Teaching the Word of God—2 Tim. 3:16-17—Stress the parts of the verse. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work
3. The edification of each other—Eph. 4:15-16-- ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
4. To live out our faith in anticipation of the return of the Blessed Hope Titus 2:11-15 ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

III. Blessings We Share in the Church Age.

- A. These blessings are ours because while we live in the Church Age, we **“are in Christ.”**
- B. Examples of that in Ephesians— Refer to the verses.
 - a. Every blessing—Eph. 1:3
 - b. He chose us “in Him” v. 4
 - c. We have redemption through His blood— v 7.
 - d. We have an inheritance—v. 11.
 - e. Because of our being a member of the Church—we have been given the blessing and privilege to work for Him.
 - aa. Contrast Law Keeping with grace regarding work.
 - f. We have been giving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)
 - aa. The Holy Spirit works in our lives to help us grow as Christians.
 - g. **“In Christ”** means we have confidence in our access to Jesus.
 - aa. (Eph. 3:11-13 ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.
- C. Living Out Our blessings as Christians— Everyone of has a place in the Kingdom.
 1. Each Christian has, I believe, at least 1 talent—
 2. We must use it, not only. To help ourselves grow as a Christian but help others.
 3. We are saved individually-no coattails in heaven—but once we are saved—we are a corporate body of Christians-living in the Church Age.