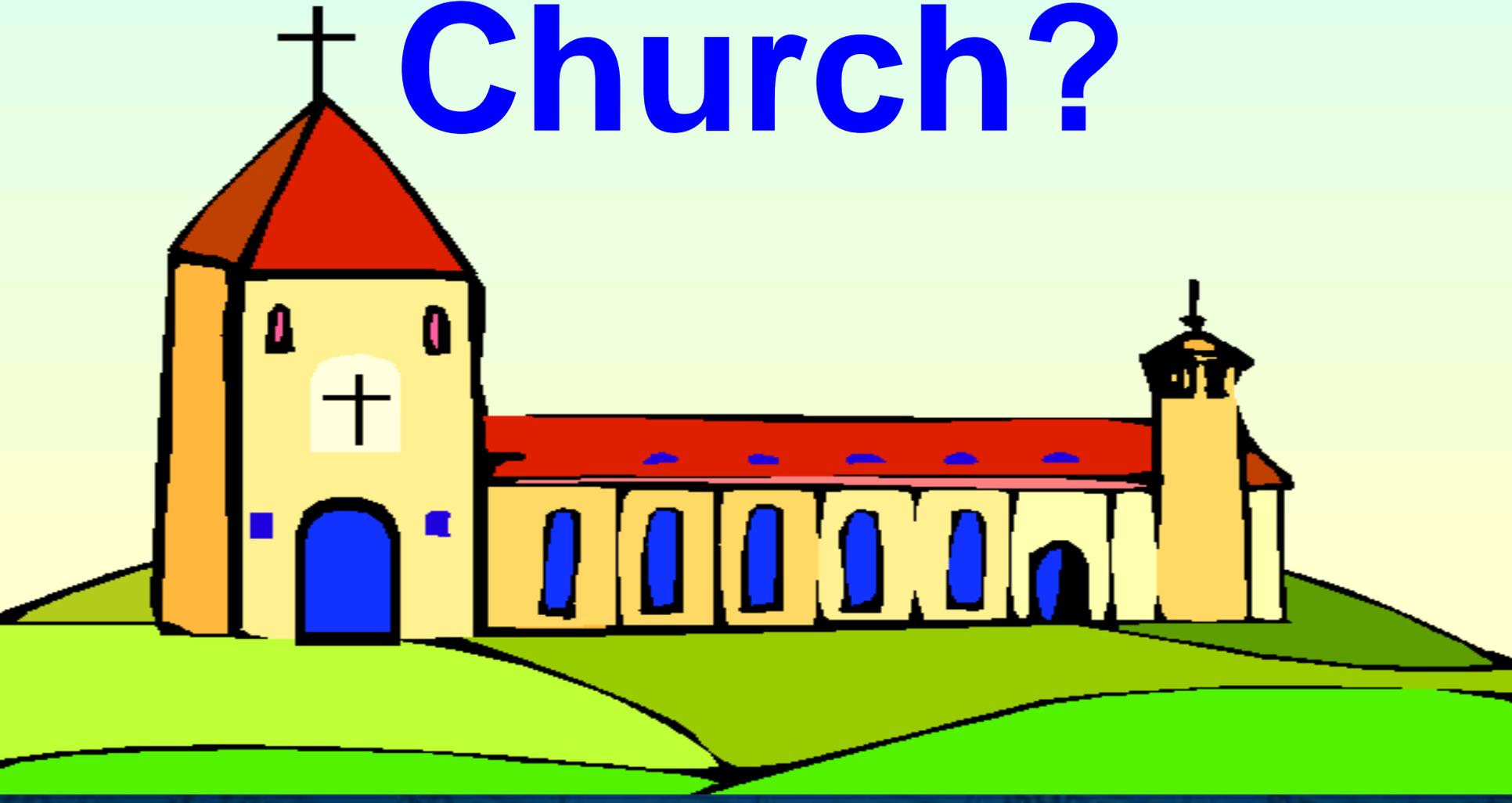


Why Study the Church?



What is missing

ch**UR**ch

in the ch__ch!

Why Study the Church?

Mt 16:18-19 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

☪ The New Testament Church!

- Today we are going to begin a series of lessons on “the New Testament Church!”
 - Our goal will be to better understand the church of the Bible, the Lord’s church!
 - Far too many do not properly understand the church as God would have it!
- Many today do not even see the need for the church!
 - Many will say “Christ yes, the church no!”
 - Professing to love Jesus and even claiming to follow Him they have little use for the church!

A world of confusion & contradiction in the realm of religions!

- This seems to add to the low value many place on the church, church which one?
- We will be taking a look and the pages of the Bible trying to better understand the church as God would have it!
- We will be working to clear up many misconceptions fostered by man's traditions in light of the truth!
 - Mt. 15:1-9 Tradition vs. Truth!

I. The Value of the NT Church!

- Our appreciation for things is often based on the “value” we find in them!
- What is the “value” God places on the NT church?
 - Christ is head over all things to/for the church!
 - Eph. 1:20-23
 - The church is the body of Christ and the fullness of Him!
 - Eph. 1:23; Col. 1:18
 - The church is part of God’s eternal purpose!
 - Eph. 3:10-11

Throughout the Bible we read of the importance of the church/kingdom!

- These terms are used interchangeably in (Mt. 16:18-19)
- Up until Acts 2 we read of those “awaiting the kingdom/church” and after, we read of those in the church/kingdom!
 - Act. 1:4-8; 2:1-4, 41 & 47
 - Col. 1:13; 1 Thess. 2:12; Rev. 1:9
- This is important to understand because God had always planned to bring in a eternal kingdom! (Is. Dan. Joel & Act. 2)

II. The Villains of the NT Church!

Villains = man's efforts to change the church!

• Many see no problem with the many different churches of our day, but does God? Keeping in mind that we are the church, how does God feel about division?

– 1 Cor 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

– See also 2 Jn. 1:9-11

Confusion comes from man and not from God!

- 1 Cor 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
- 1 Cor 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.
- We need to be careful that we do not take it upon ourselves to start changing God's view of the church, its organization, its worship or its plan of salvation!

Villains be warned!

- 2 Pet 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.
- Php 3:18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:
- 1Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Doctrines of Christ vs. Doctrines of Men!

- The concept that doctrine does not matter is foreign to biblical teaching!
- The world maybe accepting of anything, but God isn't
 - Rev 22:18-19 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Conclusion:

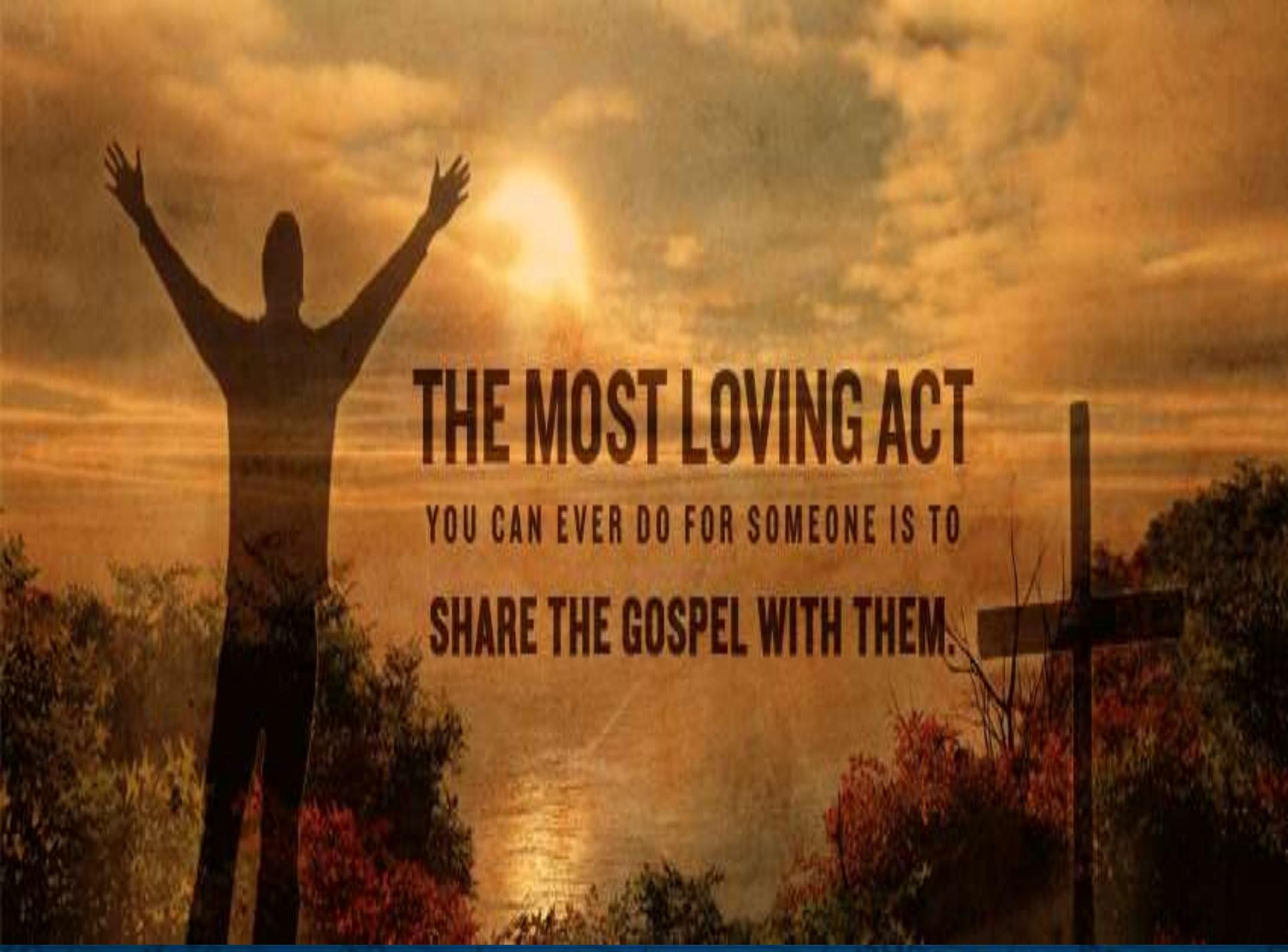
- I hope each of us can see “why” this study is important!
- I would like to encourage each of you to make sure you are here these next few Sunday nights as we address “The New Testament Church!”
- If you are here and not yet a member of the body of Christ/ the NT church, then today is the day! To be added by Christ!
- If you are a member, then I hope you will understand what a blessing we have received!

DON'T

GO

TO CHURCH.

BE THE CHURCH.



THE MOST LOVING ACT

YOU CAN EVER DO FOR SOMEONE IS TO

SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THEM.