

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

"His Church"

(Matthew 16:18)

- Introduction:
1. Do you know of anything in this life for which you would be willing to die?
 - a. "Teen Angel" – 1960, class ring.
 - b. Air Florida Flight 90, January 13, 1982 (Arland D. Williams Jr.).
 2. Whether you'd be willing to give your life for anything or anyone, let me remind you of what Jesus said and did.
 - a. (John 15:13) "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."
 - b. (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25).
 3. That brings us to the awareness that the church is of great value.
 4. Let's talk about it.

I. Prophecies Concerning the Church

- A. The Church was in God's eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:10-11).
- B. (Daniel 2:44).
- C. (Mark 1:15; 9:1).
- D. (Matthew 16:18).
- E. (Acts 2:1-47).

II. Questions Concerning the Church

- A. Do I have to be a member of the church?
 1. Do you have to hug and kiss your children?
 2. You do if you want to be saved.
 3. (Ephesians 5:23-27) While the church is not your Savior, it is the group of people Jesus said he would save.
- B. Is one church as good as another?
 1. I'll let you answer that question, by answering these questions...
 - a. Are churches that teach error as good as churches that teach the truth?
 - b. Are churches that only do part of what God commands as good as churches that obey all of God's commands?
 - c. Are churches who modify God's commands as good as churches who keep God's commands as stated?
 - d. Were the churches in Sardis and Laodicia (Revelation 3:1; 3:16) as good as the churches in Smyrna and Philadelphia (Revelation 2:8-11; 3:7-13)?
 2. There are many counterfeits in the world today.

- Conclusion:
1. Jesus built his church & if you want to be saved, you must be a part of it.
 2. The terms of entrance haven't changed (Acts 2:36-47).