

INTRODUCTION :

Title: Heads or Tails? You heard about the golfer named Jones who was twenty minutes late at the first tee one Sunday morning, and the other three members of the regular four-some were almost ready to drive off without him. "I agreed with my wife," explained Jones, "that this Sunday I'd toss a coin to see whether I played golf or went to church. Heads, I played golf. Tails, I went to church. And you know fellows, I had to toss that coin forty-three times before it came up heads."

I've preached to other churches lately and I've talked with other pastors and ever since COVID has hit and we switched to on-line, we have noticed that going to church for Christians has become an option and it is not part of their priority.

I remember the interview of J. Edgar Hoover who was the first director of the FBI.

No Decision to Make The late J. Edgar Hoover was once asked, "Should I make my child go to Sunday school and church?" His reply was both Scriptural and practical. "Yes," said the former head of the FBI, "you certainly should, and with no further discussion about the matter. You may be startled by my answer, but what do you say to Junior when he comes to breakfast on Monday morning and announces he isn't going to school anymore? You know! He goes! How do you answer him when he comes home covered with mud and says, 'I'm not going to take a bath.' Junior bathes, doesn't he? Why all this timidity, then, in the realm of spiritual guidance and growth? You say you're going to let him wait and decide what church he wants to go to when he is old enough? Quit your kidding! You wouldn't wait until he's grown up to choose whether he wishes to be clean or dirty, would you? Do you let him decide for himself whether to take medicine when he's sick? Do you? How shall we respond, then, when Junior says he doesn't want to go to Sunday school and church? That's easy! Just be consistent. Tell him, 'Son, in our house we ALL go to Sunday school and church, and that includes you!' Your firmness and example will furnish a bridge over which youthful rebellion will then travel into many rich and satisfying spiritual experiences."

This is the reason by God's grace, the message for this Sunday is CHURCH 101.

***Misconceptions about church (or what a church is not)**

1. His church is not just a religion.
2. His church is not necessarily a denomination
3. His church is not based on tradition.

One more thing : It does NOT necessarily mean that if you find the name "Jesus" or "Christ" in a certain church, it already means it is HIS church.

Why is it important to know what is HIS church? Because it spells the difference if we belong to Christ or not and this affects our life not only here but afterwards.

So the question is : What is HIS church?

In order to find the answer : We must consult what Jesus Christ Himself said about His church when He established it.

**Matthew 16 : ¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"*

¹⁴They 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?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹I 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."

Pray

So the question is : Do you belong to Jesus? Do you belong to His church?

Question again : What is His church?

***(Show outline)**

***I. THE FOUNDER**

We have to remember that the church is not founded by man...it is founded by our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and that makes it special.

I will build my church

Question : Who is our founder?

1. He is Lord.

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

Note : This is how Christ describes Himself in the gospels. He used it more than 70 times.

Question : When the disciples here the term "son of man", what imagery comes in their mind immediately?

**Daniel 7: ¹³ "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.*

In short, in order to belong to His church, we have to surrender our lives to Him.

2. He is the Christ

*¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God

Etymology : Christ "Christos" from "chrio" anointed – Anointed One – one who is chosen by God

For what purpose : to save/redeem His people

Question : Save His people from what?

Answer : From the penalty of sin which is eternal damnation

Premise : Everyone is a sinner or have sinned.

**Romans 3 : 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**1 John 1 : 8If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

Usual Premise : Man has a chance to go to heaven if he tries to be good and better than someone else but this is false.

James 2: 10For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Look at this :

**Revelations 21 : 8But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*"

If you think you did not do the others...and yet you lied, you are called a liar...what's the result?

***This is the reason why God sent His Son.**

John 3: 16" For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Which now bring us to :

*3. He is the Son of God

*¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God

John 20 : 30Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**1 John 5: 11And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Application : Do you really belong to His church?

So the question is : Is Jesus the Lord of your life? Is Jesus your Saviour? Do you really believe He is the Son of God?

In short : Do you really believe in this? What's the proof?

***Quote :**

1. They are facing only one direction,

2. They can never turn back, and
3. They no longer have plans of their own.

- A.W. Tozer

***Application Quote :** God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him. – Andrew Murray

***Illustration :** (show photo of Atlas and cathedral) RCA (Rockefeller now GE), there's a statue of Atlas carrying the world but inside St. Patrick's, there's a picture of a boy Jesus holding the world in His hands. What would you like? You carrying the world or to give it to the Lord.

***Very Important :** *¹⁴They 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?"

Evangelistic : Is Jesus the Lord of your life? Do you believe in Him as Saviour? Do you believe in Him as the Son of God.

**Romans 10: ⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

Lead a prayer of acceptance (Oh Holy Spirit take over please)

***II. THE FOUNDATION**

**¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And 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.

***1. His church is not built on man's ideas or traditions**
**, for this was not revealed to you by man,*

***Illustration :** (show lemming) Lemmings (although it's a myth) is said to commit mass suicide. But a mass of them are pushed off the cliff because they are just following the masses or what others are doing.

In short, the belief system of a lot of people is based on what they grew up with or what others or their parents are doing not knowing they are at the precipice of destruction

**Proverbs 14: ¹²There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*

***2. His church is built on God's revelation**
**"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."*

Explain first : What is a revelation?

Example : Here in Canada is “Secret Santa” But in the Philippines, we call it “Monito-monita” where during the Christmas party, they will reveal who is giving you the gifts.

Question : How would you know if something is revealed by God or comes from God?

**2 Timothy 3: ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

Etymology : Scripture “graphos” that which is written

In short : You know you belong to His church, if your rule and standard for living is the Bible. Everything you do is based on God’s Word.

***Quote :** One hundred years from my day there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity seeker. — Voltaire (1694-1778)

But more than a hundred years later, the one who now owns his house is the Geneva Bible Society.

**¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹I 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.*

Mistake : The church is not a building.

Illustration : Some people when you ask, what do you look for in a church? Location – yung malapit lang sa bahay namin or aircon or maiksi sermon or maganda ang nursery or maganda facilities.

Those are not bad but what really is a church?

Etymology : church “ekklesia” ek kaleo “to call out”

The Greeks used this word to describe a town meeting, of a meeting of the people of a certain city state to discuss their business

In short, it’s a gathering of people called out to worship the Lord....now remember this, because of a story, I will tell you in the end.

Question : What is the rock?

Etymology : Peter (petros – meaning stone) - rock (petro- bedrock)

In short, the church is not built on Peter but on the revelation of that Peter received

What did Peter say again?

**¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

That’s why :

**Ephesians 2: ¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

Now look at this :

¹⁸And 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.

Explain Hades : “abode of the dead”

In short, this truth which is the foundation of the church and which the church stands is so powerful that it can conquer the greatest enemy of all... death.

III. FUNCTION

¹⁹I 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."

Myth : susi ni San Pedro. The keys were given to the church

Explain : Two images from Jesus' time

1. Scriptures during that time was hidden in a box and they have to use a key to open it and then take out the scroll, untie it and read it.
2. legal term : contract is binding... I loose you from your obligations

But whatever it is : It's talking about the mission of the church

**Matthew 28 : ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Application : We know as a church this is our solemn duty...to make disciples of Christ.

Illustration :

People read in the newspaper that the President would attend Riverview church. There was a typo mistake in the newspaper which should have read Riverside church. So there was an unusually big crowd that morning in the church and it was standing room only. The service starts at 10:30 a.m. and obviously the President wasn't there. So the pastor stood up to start the service. While he was about to start, someone from the congregation interrupted and said, "Pastor, what time is the President coming? Shouldn't we wait for him?" The pastor replied, "I don't know what you're talking about but the God of the Universe is here so I'm pretty sure it's ok for us to begin our worship service."

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

S.G.D.