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Wednesday Bible Class / Church: Nature; Purpose / Matthew 16:18

God Provisionally cares for the Church.



Matthew 16:18 ESV

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.

I. THE PLAN OF THE CHURCH

A. To Evangelize

Mark 16:15 ESV

¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

Mark 16:20 ESV

²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

B. To Educate/ Edify

Matthew 28:19–20 ESV

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11–12 ESV

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

¹² We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

C. To Love One Another/ Benevolence

Hebrews 13:1 ESV

¹ Let brotherly love continue.

1 John 4:8 ESV

⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 ESV

⁹ Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,

II. THE PROMISE TO THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:18 ESV

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.

A. Satan may *cripple* the church, but he can't destroy it!

Psalm 133:1 ESV

¹ Behold, how good and pleasant it is

when brothers dwell in unity!

Acts 2:1 ESV

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

B. Satan may *confuse* the church, but cannot destroy it.

Romans 16:17 ESV

¹⁷ I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

C. Satan may *contaminate* the church, but he cannot destroy it.

2 Corinthians 7:1 ESV

¹ Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

III. THE PROBLEMS OF THE CHURCH

A. Cults

Matthew 24:24 ESV

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

B. Complaining

Jude 16 ESV

¹⁶ These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

C. Confusion

2 Corinthians 12:20 ESV

²⁰ For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.

D. Carnality

1 Corinthians 3:1 ESV

¹ But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

Romans 8:7 ESV

⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

E. Complacency

Matthew 24:12 ESV

¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

IV. THE PERFECTION OF THE CHURCH

A. Cleansed Church

Ephesians 5:26 ESV

²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

B. Consecrated Church

Ephesians 5:27 *ESV*

²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

C. Concerned Church—

1. Concerned with man's physical needs

3 John 2 *ESV*

² Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.

2. Concerned with man's spiritual needs

John 3:3 *ESV*

³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

3. Concerned with man's mental needs

Philippians 4:7 *ESV*

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.