

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES

A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY
MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-938 SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2017

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Who Told You About The Church? – Part 4

discerning the voices of our day and knowing what to do about what you hear

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Church, Community, Doctrine, End Times, Disciple-Making, Truth.

Introduction and overview to the series

Church, Heaven, Eternity, Salvation, Faith, Works, Community.

Matthew 5:13-18

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. **:14** “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **:17** “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. **18** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

“One jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till **all** is fulfilled.”

Have you ever thought for moment, what Jesus

Christ would get out of His coming to earth, revealing the nature of God to man, only to be mistreated, rejected and crucified ? – a story on the surface that looks like a gigantic failure.

What did God get out of coming to this mean world?

It was His delight, His sheer pleasure of restoring a relationship with mankind, - - that transcends all other forms of relationships.

The restoration of a relationship

2 Peter 1:4

4 Having been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers** of the divine nature,

partakers

koinonos, *koy-no-nos*´; sharers, partners, companion, fellowship(ers).

Simply put - for going to the cross Jesus' reward was the church

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

THE "WHO TOLD YOU? SERIES - ABOUT THE CHURCH"

1.) What is the church ?

2.) Why is the church ?

3.) Until the church ?

until (you, and or) the church is taken up.

THE "WHO TOLD YOU?" SERIES - UNTIL THE CHURCH"

3a.) Until the Church has finished her mission.

Let's be Honest Now:

The Church of Jesus Christ is an odd thing in this world.

1 Corinthians 1:23-29

But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. :26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the

world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

**Remember now, that the church is a living organism;
Made up of living people - you and I are the church!**

**The is no greater mission, vision, goal or venture
Than what God has called His church to do until He comes again.**

After salvation, being a doer is what really matters

**I need to be careful here because
Many a church has abused and misused this important truth, that we must
be doers of the word and not just hearers.**

**We must never, never put duty ahead of the heart. Faith must come first
before deeds can benefit.**

**(you) the Church has a mission to complete.
What are some of those “Missions”?**

John 15:13

**Greater love has no one than this, than to lay (purpose, ordain, to give away) down
one's life for his friends.**

**Which means that there is only one way to make disciples
of the Lord Jesus Christ – by exposure.**

#1 exposure to the doctrines of God.

#2 exposure to church life.

#3 exposure to true, active & engaged christainity.

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES - UNTIL THE CHURCH”

3b.) Until the Church has endured this age.

until (you) the church has endured this age.

1 Peter 4:12-14

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

Muse on this Question:

“Why would you and I choose to be abused by this world?”

Digest the answer:

“We did not choose to be abused by this world – it's irrelevant”

**Love, Family, Unity, Purpose, Mission, Destination;
All these are just manifestations of a greater work...**

**CHRISTIAN, We have a goal in sight that is
GREATER THEN ALL THINGS!**

Acts 14:21-22

And when they had **preached** the gospel to that city and **made** many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 **strengthening** the souls of the disciples, **exhorting** them to continue in the faith, and **saying**, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

The Encouragement that Enduring Brings

2 Timothy 2:3-4

You therefore **must endure** hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep (only let in what is good) your heart with all diligence, (why?) For out of it spring the **issues** (the borders, guard-rails) of life.

Contextually, the passage in Matthew 24
is that of the Olivet Discourse which is in regards to those in the future: “7
Year Tribulation Period.” A time that is different than the “General
Tribulations” that every Believer must endure in life as a follower of Christ.

A parenthetical insert or a God placed interruption

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. - **Matthew 24:9-14**

“From God’s perspective, it makes sense that Jesus would combine the events of AD 70 with those times yet to come. Theologically, the events are all of “The Last Days.” Jesus then on to warn that, as persecution increases over time, many who considered themselves to be His followers will eventually reveal their true spiritual condition when they decide to turn away from the faith to what will be more convenient and or safe for themselves”. - - “True Christian faith will be tested by deception, false prophets, and the increase of wickedness in the world. Not only will there be some who turn away, but Jesus foretold that “The love of most will grow cold.” The implication is that those who “stand firm to the end” will turn out to be a minority and not the majority.”

- *Dr. John Walvoord*

2 Timothy 3:12-13

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13
But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse,

From the time of the apostles until present day, millions of Christians have been persecuted and put to death. We are seeing an escalation of that in more recent days with global terrorism, but martyrdom has always been common in most parts of the world. Jesus, in His Olivet Discourse goes on to state that Christians will “be hated by all nations because of me.” Today, unlike any other time in history Islam and atheism are increasing in nations that once held to Judeo-Christian values, we are seeing a greater fulfillment of this prophecy now than at any other time but the ultimate fulfillment is yet still unfolding. Hatred can be expressed in many ways, one of which is the radical secularization of culture and governments that once honored time-tested morality and faith. When a culture actively strips from its history and public life any vestiges of God’s involvement in a nations success, that nation is displaying hatred toward Jesus Christ, which is the manifestation of a spirit of antichrist.

- *Professor Paul Benware*

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES - UNTIL THE CHURCH”

3c.) Until the Church has kept the faith.

Like everything in life – God has shown us that there’s a finish-line that’s been pre-set for the church by Jesus Himself.

There is a time set known only to God.

Romans 11:25c-26

Blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **26** And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The Deliverer will come out of Zion,

The Author of the Bible reveals just how important our faith is

Ephesians 6:16

(a) Above all, (b) taking **the** (c) **shield of faith** (d) **with which** (e) **you will be able** to (f) **quench** all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

**But what happens when we neglect our faith?
(the answer to that sad question is infinite)**

the demand, the need, the requirement to “keep the faith”

**do you know that you can survive losing:
your husband or your wife?
do you know that you can survive losing:
your parents or your children?
do you know that you can survive losing:
every single penny you have to your name?
but did you know that you cannot survive losing:
your faith in God.**

1 Timothy 1:19

Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered **shipwreck**,

shipwreck

nauageo, now-ag-eh'-o; to run aground. to head for the rocks intentionally.

There is an element of "gambling" to the definition. To take a risk while navigating or to plot a course that is doomed.

"Who would do such a thing?"

Those who allow themselves to be tricked

2 Timothy 4:3-5a

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; **4** and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. **5** But you be watchful in all things.

Those who allow themselves to entertain falsehood

Galatians 3:1

O foolish Galatians! Who has **bewitched** you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

bewitched

baskaino, *bas-kah'-ee-no*; akin to 5335; to malign, i.e. (by extension) to fascinate (by false representations): — bewitch.

Those who allow themselves to have questionable things

Revelation 2:1,4-5c

1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus **4** I have this against you, that you have left your **first love**. **5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the **first works**,

**Restoration is impossible without remembrance.
Not until you go back to those earlier times and first things.**

**"Well pastor, we've just fallen out of love"
Remember when her goofy laugh was cute then - -
Failure to maintain visual contact.**

**"When we look at others through the lens of love,
We see only those things that really matter."**

Revelation 2:5

Remember (keep keeping on remembering) therefore from where you have fallen;
repent (change your mind) and do the **first works**,

The LORD said thru Jeremiah to Israel:

“I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me and followed after me even through the barren wilderness.

The Exhortation to ward off Apostasy

**Some of you have not been sure of your salvation and
you're not sure now of your salvation.**

I do not know the reason why that's the case for you, I just know that it's not
God's will for your life, that you be insecure about the most secured thing
that can be known to man.

**There are others of you here today that need to come to
salvation in Christ now!**

I do not why you have waited or hesitated, but today is the day you must decide.

End of Study

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