

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 6



A SUPERNATURAL CHURCH

Scripture Texts: Matthew 16:13-18; 1 Corinthians 3:9-11; Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 2:47

The church is built by Jesus Christ on Christ as the Son of God. It is made for God to live in. The Spirit of God in each binds the members to Him and to each other.

We must believe by divine revelation to our hearts. Head belief is not enough. Unless the Holy Spirit impresses in our hearts the Truth of Who Jesus is, we cannot truly believe Him to be the Son of God and Lord of all, cannot believe as we must to be saved (**1 Corinthians 12:3**). All saved people believe that Jesus is the Christ because they experience Him in their hearts. We must know Jesus personally, and Jesus must know us for us to be saved and to be a part of the supernatural church.

MEMORY VERSE: *And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

—Acts 2:47

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—Acts 2 The church established.

Tue.—Acts 3:1-16 The power of God in the church.

Wed.—Hebrews 9:1-14 Jesus' blood was shed to build the church.

Thu.—Hebrews 12:22-29 The divine character of the church.

Fri.—1 Peter 2:1-10 A spiritual house.

Devotional Reading: Colossians 1:12-23 Christ, Head of church.

A Supernatural Foundation

Matthew 16:13-18 Jesus asked His disciples, **Whom do men say that I . . . am?** The disciples, in response to His question, expressed that men had various ideas as to Who He was. Then Jesus made it personal. **But whom say ye that I am?** In answer to this question, Peter said, **Thou art the Christ**—the anointed One of God—the **Son of the living God**. He saw and felt the supernatural in Jesus and so thought Him to be supernatural. Yet his belief was not based on his human judgment. Neither did he take the word of other men. Jesus said **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father . . .** The Father in Heaven had revealed this Truth to Peter. **And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter.** Peter knew Jesus, and Jesus knew Peter. This is the true foundation of the church. **Upon this rock I will build my church.** The church is not brick and mortar, it is people. Christ is the builder. He builds it on Himself. It is on a solid, sure, unshakeable foundation, and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** No man, Peter or any other could be this kind of foundation. **The foundation of God standeth sure (2 Timothy 2:19).**

Does it matter who built the church? The whole character of the church depends upon who built it. Only a supernatural One can build a supernatural church. A man's church can give us only what a man has to give. Who is the head of a man-made church? Who governs it? Is it Christ's **body, the habitation of God, a church holy and without blemish?** Read **Ephesians 5:27**. Can man's church include all the saved and exclude all sinners? Only Christ's building stands sure. Everything built by man will finally be swept away. Read **Matthew 15:13** and **Psalms 127:1**.

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A Supernatural Building

1 Corinthians 3:9-11 Paul, writing to the church at Corinth, called them **God's building**. He and Apollos had taught and suffered to get them built up in the faith. Yet he claimed no ownership or ruling authority over them. They were but **laborers together with God**. The Church of God is God's. All Paul had done was by **the grace of God**, the strength and life of God given him.

Paul had **laid the foundation**, started the local congregation and taught them the fundamentals of the Gospel. Yet it was not *his* foundation, nothing he planned or made. One foundation has been laid, and *no man* can lay another. The only foundation is **Jesus Christ**. Jesus laid Himself by dying and rising again to save sinners and put them into the church, **which he hath purchased with his own blood (Acts 20:28)**. Any group not on this foundation is not the Church of God. Since there can be but one building on one foundation, there is but one church. No man can build another.

A Supernatural Fellowship

Ephesians 2:19-20 When God delivers **us from the power of darkness** and translates **us into the kingdom of his dear Son (Colossians 1:13)**, He makes us **fellow citizens with the saints**. No one but the King can make us citizens of the kingdom. He takes us into the household of God. No one but the Father of the family can take us into the family. It is a supernatural process done by God. The saved one is united with Him and with others of like relationship. No one becomes a member of the Church of God except by being born of God, not **of the will of man** or by a man-made ceremony, **but of God (John 1:13)**. Each citizen is built upon the foundation of the church. As each one is saved, he is added—built upon Christ.

An Habitation of God

Ephesians 2:21-22 For what are we added? To be a **holy temple . . . an habitation of God**. God created us for His pleasure, companionship, fellowship, and communion. He wants to live in us and work through us. (**Isaiah 43:21: Revelation 4:11**.) This union is the closest possible—**in the Lord . . . through the Spirit**—the joining in one of a human person and the Almighty God. He **hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6)**. **We are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones (Ephesians 5:30)**. **Our life is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3)**. This is the position or condition of the Church of God. Are you in it? Do not remain a stranger and foreigner. Come to Jesus.

Names Written in Heaven

Acts 2:47 **The Lord added to the church**. No one else can add members. Only **the Lord knoweth them that are his (2 Timothy 2:19)**. There is no need for man's membership rolls because God has the names written in Heaven (**Luke 10:20**). Human rolls only confuse and deceive by a false standard of membership. There are no sinners in the Church of God. He adds only the saved. All the saved are claimed by God. The church can never be destroyed. It stands sure.

JUST A THOUGHT

**You can preach a better sermon
with your life than with your lips.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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