

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES

A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY
MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX937 SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2017

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CHURCH?

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

Part 3

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.

Revelation 3:7-13

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, “These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens’”: 8 “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. :13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

Church Life is a Dynamic – Designed by God I Believe!

“WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CHURCH”

1.) What is the church?

1a.) Church is a Christ Centered community

1b.) Church is a Christ Centered family

1c.) Church is a Christ Centered manifestation of faith

1d.) Church is a Christ Centered gathering of the saints

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

2.) Why the church?

Shortly after Jesus was tested in the wilderness of Judea, He went to the galilee and there He began to call to Himself His disciples.

Matthew 4:19

Then He said to them, “**Come follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men.”
...and One by One Jesus added to His little church of twelve

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Since the Day of Pentecost, when the church was born on earth, God’s word has gone out to the earth many times over.

(I was encouraged the other day speaking with Dr. Ed Hindson who had mentioned how many radio stations across America and beyond air our teaching program daily to millions of listeners. And if that wasn't enough, SiriusXM satellite radio has a paid membership subscription audience of over 26 Million listeners. Dr. Hindson said “Jack, today, with just one sermon aired on the radio, it can reach more people than the apostle Paul did in his lifetime.”)

It’s a testimony that the church is near to the end of her ministry on earth, and that soon we could be finishing up our mission and heading for home.

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

2a.) Because the Church is God’s ministry of grace.

God had chosen Israel / God has Chosen the Church

God’s revealed plan was for the “church of believers”
to be those of believing Israel.

It was Israel that God had called to be His expression
to the world. It was the Jew that was to be His mouthpiece to the world.

But why would God reveal His plan of salvation through
the church? It’s the church, people like us who’s going to be in Heaven.

Did you know that there are going to be people who are
going to be in heaven from Russia and Peru, Norway and Mozambique,
there’ll be people there from California – even Hollywood

But why would the world need to know of God’s Grace?
Because, before Grace can be preached - - that same church must
preach the Righteousness of God and the Sinfulness of mankind.

God’s grace is greatly misunderstood these days.
The purest definition of the word Grace

...As an act of God toward lost humanity

Genesis 6:8

But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of the LORD.
(it’s the divine stooping down or coming down to bestow, favor, or “pick out” to
bless or to grant kindness towards”

“the most loving people I know
are those who have been greatly loved.”

“the most forgiving people I know
are those who have been greatly forgiven.”

...We see God's grace at work in Jesus Christ at His Incarnation

Luke 2:40

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the **grace** of God was upon Him.

The **Charis** of God -

To give, grant, bestow, lavish, without merit. Freely given.

...Toward the Church

Acts 4:33

And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great **grace** was upon them all.

“Grace cannot be greatly appreciated until it is greatly needed.”

Ezekiel 18:20

The soul who sins it shall die.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The church today needs to be careful because I think we are too quick to quote John 3:16 when equally true versus surround it.

John 3:14-20

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him **should not perish** but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes** in Him **should not perish** but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him **might be saved**. :18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe **is condemned already**, because he has **not believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, but **men loved darkness** rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

The Church is God's ministry of grace

You are here today in what is a church of thousands.

But rather than being scared by that or put off by that - - I believe that if you, we are walking in the Spirit, we will recognize that in any great crowd there is great need - there's more to love.

And Jesus said to them; “You make the people,
the crowd to sit down – and you feed them”

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

2b.) Because the Church is God’s representative of power

It's a different kind of power than what this world knows.
It's the power of God that rests upon a dedicated people.
(a holy people)

The church, under the influence of the Holy Spirit
is a great blessing to many, but not to all. The church, under the influence
of the Holy Spirit is a great threat to the powers of this world.

Acts 2:41-43a

Then those who (are you a Who?) gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to the church (with one sermon, in one day the first century church became a mega church). **42** And they (#1) continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and (#2) fellowship, (#3) in the breaking of bread, (#4) and in prayers. (note the result) **43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done.

This “Great Fear” means to be in “Great Awe” of God’s active power.

We, as human beings have NO “translatable” or “transferrable”
power to use in the church or for the church.

We are, by ourselves, powerless. But by Him, our power is limitless.
“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore...

There’s the reality of His power.

Micah 3:7-8

The seers (false prophets) shall be ashamed, And the diviners (fortune tellers) are abashed (shamed); Indeed they shall all cover their lips; For there is no answer from God (in them).” **8** But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD,

And then there’s the result of His power.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! :5 Let your **gentleness** be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. :6 Be **anxious** for nothing, but in

everything **by prayer** and **supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your **requests** be made known to God; (result) 7 and the **peace** (deep calm) of God, which surpasses (beyond the finishing point) all understanding (beyond human), will guard (march around and protect) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

There is the relevance of His power.

James 1:26-27

If anyone among you (the church) thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled (faith / church) religion before God and the Father is this: (#1) to visit orphans (grieved, bereaved, parentless) and widows in their trouble, (anguish and heartache) and (#2) to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

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

2c.) Because the Church is God's guardian of His truth.

As Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, Pilate was asked what might be the most profound questions that has ever been asked...

John 18:37-38

Pilate therefore said to Jesus, "**Are You a King?**" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." :38 Pilate said to Him, "**What is truth?**"

**I may be wrong, but I hear a tired man asking that question.
I hear a man that had grown tired of power, wealth and fame!**

**I'm sad to say that the church in America has lost sight of her purpose.
To be on the side of truth and to stand for it at all costs – the church has
lost her high position before the world.**

There seems to be a "Church of the Laodicean" spirit today.

Revelation 3:15-17,20

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. **16** So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. **17** Because you say, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing" - and do not know that you are wretched,

miserable, poor, blind, and naked, **20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.**
(let Me in Jesus is saying) **If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will
come in to him.**

The Lukewarm church has lost its influence in the World

**“Do you know how to tell if someone has lost influence & identity, purpose
or sense of mission? In their insecurity, they begin to copy or mimic
others that are influencing them.”**

“WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CHURCH” WHY THE CHURCH ?

2d.) Because the Church is God’s image bearer to all.

**The church is NOT called to create or invent anything.
Instead, the church is called to reproduce everything that it
“hears from the Holy Spirit.”**

“The Devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the Church that
part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view
to winning them. Providing amusement for the people is nowhere spoken of
in the Scriptures as a function of the Church. The need is biblical doctrine,
so understood and felt that is sets men afire.”

Rev. Charles Spurgeon London, England 1862

**Just before Jesus commissioned His church, He first
commissioned His disciples...**

John 16:12-14

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13**
However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;
for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak;
and He will tell you things to come. **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what
is Mine and declare it to you.

Jack 1:13-14

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide **the church** into
all truth; for **the church** will not speak on its own authority, but whatever **the
church** hears **the church** will speak; and **the church** will tell you things to
come. **14** for **the church** will glorify Christ, **the church** will take of what
is Hid and declare it to the world!

John 14:25-26

“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. **26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you** all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all things that I said to you.

We're to be Repeaters and Distributors and Reflectors.

1 John 1:5

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you,

John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

In Matthew 5

You are the Light of the World.

John 1:5-7

This is the message which we have heard from Him and **declare to you**, (repeat, distribute, reflect) that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7 But if we walk in the light** as He is in the light, **we have fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (washes and washes again) us from all sin.

(there is no greater definition of continuous revival than that)

Personally, as a Christian,

We're to be Rejecting the Darkness at every turn.

Corporately, as a church,

We're to be Reaching into the Darkness for every soul.

I like to think of the church as being like a “Grave Robber”

The church isn't interested in going through your pockets looking for loose change – the church of Jesus Christ wants to grab you by the heart and mind and pull you out of the pit!

Jesus was, is a Grave Robber of Souls...

2 Corinthians 4:3

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. **4** Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to **see the glorious light of the Good News**. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God revealed to the world.

**The Church is to the Source of Light to the dark places of this world.
Light always overcomes darkness – every single time!**

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

6 For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **:7** But we (you and I, the church) have this treasure in earthen vessels, (these silly early bodies) that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

This Week in Washington DC.

**Did you know this week in Washington D.C. there was a collision between the light and the darkness and now it's a matter of debate.
(the Johnson amendment)**

Did you know that there's Light inside of you Christian?

How do you get His light in you?

"Let the Light in. Open the curtains!"

Psalm 119:130

The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

But what about you personally?

Are there "dark" things in your life? Is there a loneliness, hopelessness and emptiness in your life? Jesus takes that away when He is allowed to Shine in upon you.

Ephesians 5:14

"Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

End of Study