

THRIVE2025!

How to THRIVE in Church

I want to help you get the most out of your church life.

Text: (1 Tim 3:15) *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*

I. Introduction:

A. God’s Church is NOT a building: (Eph 2:20-22)

B. God’s Church is Not started Pentecost: (Matt 16:18)

C. God’s Church is Not founded on Peter: (1 Cor 10:4)

D. God Did Established it Forever before Pentecost!

(Mk 3:13-14) (Lk 6:13)(1 Cor 12:28)

1. Had a Treasurer: (Jn 12:46)

2. Preached the Gospel: (Mk 3:14)

3. Had Discipline: (Matt 18:15-17)

4. Officer Elections: (Acts 1:15-26)

5. Received the Holy Spirit: (Jn 16:7, 20:22)

6. Received the Ordinances: (Mk 14:22-25)

7. Received its Commission: (Matt 28:19-20)

E. The Church is the Body of Christ:

1. The Bible speaks of 3 bodies:

a. Human Body: (Col 2:11) (Eph 5:28)

b. Church Body: (Col 1:18) (Eph 1:22-23)

c. Christ’s Body: (Col 1:22) (Eph 5:30)

2. Christ’s Body Manifests God to Mankind:

(Jn 14:9; 1 Tim 3:16; 2 Cor 5:19)

3. Church Body Manifests Christ to the World:(Act 1:8)

4. Human Body Illus our relationship to God(Eph 5:32)

F. The Church is the Bride of Christ:

1. Israel is not the Bride:

a. Israel is God’s earthly people.

b. Israel will receive God’s earthly promises

c. Israel is like the wife of God: (Is 54:5-6)(Jer 3:14)

d. The NT Saints are God’s Heavenly People:

2. We Are Betrothed to Christ: (2 Cor 11:2)

3. The Holy Spirit is calling out a bride now.

4. Married when caught up & presented to Bridegroom:

(Eph 5:27)(Rev 19:7)(Rev 21:9-10)(Heb 12:22-24)

a. Illustrated by Isaac & Rebekah: (Gen 24)

b. Abraham: type of the Father: Who gave his son.

c. Isaac: type of the Son: Returned to Father’s house

d. Servant: type of Holy Spirit: doing work of son.

e. Rebekah: type of Church: (Eph 5:25-27)(Matt 25:6)

f. Jacob Illustrates our Church experience: (Gen 28)

II. Church is where We Connect with God: (Gen 28:12-20)

A. Jacob learns about the messiah: (Vs 12)(Jn 1:45-51)

III. Church is a Conversation:

A. Where I & God Speak: (Gen 28:13-15; 20-22)

B. God promised this to Moses: (Ex 25:22)

C. 3 Ways God’s speaks during Church:

1. Correction: Not bad, but a good thing.

2. Direction: Not a bad thing, but a good thing.

3. Inspiration:

IV. Church is a Commitment: (Gen 28:18-22)

A. Commitment involves our Wallet: (Mal 3:10-12)

B. Our heart always follows your Treasure: (Matt 6:21)

V. Church is a Place of Change: (Gen 28:10)

A. God tells Jacob go back to face his Past:(Gen 31:13)

1. New Dependance: (Gen 32:9-30)
2. New Identity: A Prince with God