

SERMON OUTLINE

'KNOWING CHRISTIANITY'

Study - 8

'What do we believe about the church?'

1 Peter 2 v4 - 10

Note - the importance of getting the terminology right. The church is not a building in a particular location, a service at a particular time, or a member of a particular denomination. It's people - the people of God. See - v10a.

Key Question - What is God's view of the church? We all know what the world thinks of the church.

1. THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

Hebrew word for church in NT - 'qahal' / Greek word for church in NT - 'ecclesia', both of which mean - 'a called out people'. See - v9. God call us to Himself so that we might belong to Him - and He to us. He does this through the gospel of His salvation. See - Matt 1 v21. What a glorious thing it is to be "a people belonging to God." See - Deut 7 v6.

Application - remembering that the church is both invisible and universal as well as visible and local.....

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF JOINING THE CHURCH INVISIBLE AND UNIVERSAL

See - Rev 7 v9. We become part of this church by trusting in Jesus. See - v4 - 8.

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF JOINING THE CHURCH VISIBLE AND LOCAL

Note - The Bible always speaks of Christianity, not in purely individualistic terms, but in corporate terms. See - v5a. 'Holyrood Abbey - this is my people.'

2. THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Key Question - What is the purpose of the church?

A. IN WORSHIP - IT'S TO GLORIFY THE NAME OF GOD

See - v9a, v5 & Rom 12 v1

B. IN MINISTRY - IT'S TO NURTURE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

".....a holy nation" - growing up into holiness through God's word and by God's Spirit as we minister to one another.

C. IN EVANGELISM - IT'S TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF GOD

See - v9b

3. THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

Taking up the picture of the 'building' here, it's 2-fold.....

A. A VICTORIOUS DESTINY

See - Matt 16 v18

B. A GLORIOUS DESTINY

Rev 21 v10 - 11