WHY IS THE CHURCH IMPORTANT?
Sermon By Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. Many in our day have reached the conclusion that the church is unimportant to them spiritually.
2. An increasing number of Americans are deciding not to attend church services regularly, or at all.
   (1) 61% of the total population does not attend on any Sunday.
3. Why have these people reached these conclusions?
   (1) Denominational preachers have been minimizing the importance of the church for years -- they
   have taught that you can be saved without being a member of the church.
   (2) Churches have become little more than social clubs -- so people have turned away, feeling that
   they can please God just as well without attending the services of the church.
4. Before you decide to abandon the church, let us consider the PLACE which the church holds in God’s
   plan for human redemption.
5. Let us study some reasons you need to consider the church to be important in your life.

I. GOD PLANNED THE CHURCH FROM ETERNITY
1. Eph. 3:9 - 11
2. Eph. 2:10
3. God’s plan for sending Christ to die for our sins, and to purchase the church, was an ETERNAL
   plan -- Gal. 3:8.
4. The church is not an afterthought.

II. JESUS CAME TO BUILD THE CHURCH
1. From the beginning of His earthly ministry He announced His plans to establish the church -- Mk.
   1:14 - 15.
2. The prophets had foretold the establishment of this Kingdom:
   (1) Dan. 2:44; 7:13 - 14
   (2) Isa. 2:2 - 4
   (3) Psa. 2:6 - 7
3. While He was on earth He announced He would build it -- Matt. 16:18 - 19.
4. He established it on Pentecost -- Mk. 9:1; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 2:47.

III. THE CHURCH IS THE FULNESS OF CHRIST
1. Eph. 1:22 - 23
2. The boundaries of Christ and the church are co-extensive.
3. To be in Christ is to be in the church -- Gal. 3:27; I Cor. 12:13.
4. The blessings we enjoy in Christ are enjoyed in the church.

IV. JESUS DIED FOR THE CHURCH
1. Acts 20:28
2. Eph. 5:25
3. Heb. 2:9
4. I Cor. 6:20
5. I Pet. 1:18 - 19
V. RECONCILIATION TO GOD OCCURS IN THE CHURCH
   3. The reconciliation unto God is IN the CHURCH, the body of Christ -- Eph. 2: 13, 16

VI. THE CHURCH WILL BE DELIVERED UP TO GOD
   1. I Cor. 15:24
   2. Christ is the Savior of the body -- Eph. 5:23
   3. He will present it to Himself -- Eph. 5:27

VII. THE CHURCH IS THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH
   1. I Tim. 3:15; individual Christians -- Acts 8:4
   2. The church is to spread the gospel throughout the world -- Rom. 1:8; I Thess. 1:8; Mark 16:15 - 16

VIII. THE CHURCH IS IMPORTANT IN THE EDIFICATION OF SAINTS
   1. When God designed the church, He had certain PURPOSES for bringing it into existence.
   2. It was to be a self-edifying body -- Eph. 4:16; I Cor. 14:26; Matt. 28:20
   3. Christians are to assemble -- Heb. 10: 24 - 25
   4. In these assemblies on the Lord’s Day, we are to:
      (1) Eat the Lord’s Supper -- Acts 20:7
      (2) Give -- I Cor. 16:1 - 2
      (3) Sing -- Eph. 5:19
      (4) Teach -- Acts 2:42
      (5) Pray -- Acts 2:42

CONCLUSION
   1. Friend, the church is important to God and to YOUR SALVATION.

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