

SERMON: Until Shiloh come!

TEXT: Genesis 49:10

Introduction: Jesus is referred to as "Shiloh," the name meaning, "He whose right it is" and a title anciently understood to speak of the Messiah. Thus, when Shiloh came (Gal. 4:4; 1 Tim. 1:15), "unto Him shall the gathering [obedience] of the people be." The gathering for what?

1. Gathering for Salvation - Luke 15:1.
2. Gathering for teaching - Mark 6:30.
3. Gathering for Worship - Hebrews 13:13.
4. Gathering for fellowship - Matthew 18:20.
5. Gathering for Glory - 2 Thess. 2:1.

Conclusion: Thank God that "Shiloh" came to meet our deepest need. He died so that we might live!

SERMON: ALL things NEW and WONDERFUL!

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:17, "...new creature...all things have become new."

1. We have a new Mind about God - Acts 20:21.
2. We have a new State before God - Romans 4:25.
3. We have a new Life from God - Titus 3:5.
4. We have a new Attitude toward God - Matthew 18:3.
5. We have a new Relationship with God - 1 John 3:1.
6. We have a new Position before God - Jude 1.
7. We have a new Place with God - Romans 8:30.

SERMON: Living "WITHOUT" is not OK!

TEXT: Epistle to the Hebrews

Intro: Notice four "without" passages in the Hebrews.

1. There is no remission of sin WITHOUT the shedding of blood - 9:22.
2. There is no pleasing God WITHOUT faith - 11:6.
3. There is no heaven WITHOUT possessing peace & holiness - 12:14.
4. There is no Sonship WITHOUT discipline (chastisement) - 12:9.

Con. There are some things we cannot live WITHOUT!

SERMON Starter: Facing Death!

TEXT: Matthew 10:28

1. Physical Death - James. 2:26.
2. Spiritual Death - Ephesians 2:1.
3. Eternal Death - Revelation 21:8.

Conclusion: Christ holds the keys to death - Rev. 1:17. Only in Him can we experience resurrection unto Life - John 5:29.

Pulpit Preview is sent for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email on a bi-weekly bases. Editor: Mark N. Posey, preaching minister for the Austinville Church of Christ (2833 Danville Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603) since 1994. Please send all comments to— pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org or address above. **Thanks, MNP.**



PULPIT PREVIEW

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What is RIGHT with the Church?

The church is Christ's body of which He is the Head (Eph 1:21-23). It is made up of all baptized believers. "Church" comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which means "assembly" or "called-out ones." The root meaning of "church" is not that of a building, but of people. Sometimes people disparage the church and say awful things about it; however, our thoughts & words should reflect respect, honor & appreciation. The church is right, &

we must communicate the blessings and benefits of it; therefore, what is right with the church?

1. **The FOUNDATION is right.** Everything must have a proper foundation, whether it is a marriage, building or church. Jesus built His church upon the foundation of faith (Matt 16:13-19). The church has the right foundation because Jesus is that foundation (1 Cor 3:11; Eph 2:20-21). The foundation of Jesus is solid as rock (Matt 7:24-27).
2. **The FATIH is right.** Doctrine is simply that which we teach. Some teach truth while some teach falsehood. Those who teach falsehood pervert the Word of God. Those who teach truth affirm the Word of God. It is the truth for which we should "earnestly content" (Jude 3). The church has the right doctrine because Jesus is that doctrine (Acts 8:35)!
3. **The FELLOWSHIP is right.** Fellowship is the life blood of the church (Phil 1:3-6; Acts 2:42). The early church spent time together in new family relationships in Christ. Over and over came the instructions: suffer together (1 Cor 12:26), rejoice together (Rom 12:15), carry each other's burdens (Gal 6:2), restore each other (6:1), pray for each other (Rom 15:30), encourage each other (1:12), forgive each other (Eph 4:32), confess to each other (Jam 5:16), be truthful with each other (Eph 4:25), spur each other on to good deeds (Heb 10:24) and give to each other (Phil 4:14-15).
4. **The FOCUS is right.** The soul is infinite in value (Matt 16:24); therefore, the church's fixation is souls (Mk 16:15). In fact, Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the mass of lost souls (Matt 9:35-36; 14:14; 15:32). Such compassion motivated Him to do two things. First, He asked His disciples to pray that God might "send out laborers into His harvest" (Matt 9:37-38). Then, to do something about it Himself, that is, to select and to send out His apostles (Matt 10:1, 5-7). Do we ever find ourselves filled with compassion for the lost and doing something about it? If we can only have this same compassion for lost souls, we will not rest till we are striving to bring them to Jesus (cf. Rom 10:1)!
5. **The FUTURE is right.** When Jesus returns, He's coming for His church (1 Cor 15:24). Paul said, "the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess 4:16-17). Each day we should live for the One that died for us (2 Cor 5:14-15). Therefore, heaven will surely be worth it all!

Conclusion: The church is so right it cannot be wrong! We see the faults of its members, but the beauty of the church is the glory of Christ. He shines like the morning sun!

- Mark N. Posey

SERMON: *The Glorious Church of Christ!*

TEXT: Ephesians 5:25-27

Intro: The Church is the most glorious institution in the world. Notice the...

1. Construction - Mt. 16:18.
2. Composition - Acts 2:41,47.
3. Cost - Eph. 5:25.
4. Creed - 2 Tim 3:14-17.
5. Commission - Mk 16:15.

Con. Thank God for the Glorious Church of Christ!

**borrowed & adapted from V.P. Black*

SERMON: *The People that know their God!*

TEXT: Daniel 11:32, *"the people who know their God will display strength and take action."* What do we know about God? He is the God of...

1. The 2nd Chance - Jonah 3:1.
2. The 4th Generation - Gen. 15:16.
3. The 5th Sparrow - Mt. 10:29; Lk. 12:6.
4. The 11th Hour - Mt. 20:6.
5. The 1000 Hills - Ps. 50:10.

Con: Let us be a people who seek to know God! **borrowed*

SERMON: Our God, He is ALIVE!

TEXT: Psalm 48:14, *"This God is OUR God forever and ever."*

Intro: Our God is The God of...

1. God of Peace - Heb. 13:20.
2. God of all Grace - 1 Pet 5:10.
3. God of all Comfort - 2 Cor. 1:3.
4. God of Glory - Acts 7:2.
5. The God of Hope - Rom. 15:13.
6. God of Patience - Rom. 15:13.
7. God of abundant Mercy- 1 Pet 1:3.

Con: *Unto Him be Glory*—Eph. 3:20-21.

SERMON: *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Husbands!*

TEXT: 1 Peter 3:7

Intro: Peter tells husbands how to meet their wives deepest needs!

1. Permanence: *"dwell with them"* (7a).
2. Perception: *"according to knowledge"* (7b).
3. Praise: *"giving honor unto the wife"* (7c).
4. Protection: *"as unto the weaker vessel"* (7d).
5. Provision: *"as unto the weaker vessel"* (7e).
6. Partnership: *"being heirs together of the grace of life"* (7f).
7. Prayer: *"that your prayers be not hindered"* (7g).

SERMON: *Peter's Precious Principles!*

TEXT: 1 & 2 Peter

1. Precious Faith that tries us (1:7).
2. Precious Blood that redeems us (1:19).
3. Precious Stone that upholds us (2:4).
4. Precious Christ that loves us (2:7).
5. Precious Promises that strengthen us (2 Pet 1:4).

Con: It's precious [valuable, important, worth while] to be a Christian!

SERMON: How Does God Comfort His Children?

TEXT: 2 Cor. 1:3, 4

1. God Comforts Through People (Rom. 12:15).
2. God Comforts Through His Word (Psalm 23; 18:1-3; Rom. 15:4; Phil. 4:13; Rev. 1:3).
3. God Comforts Through Prayer (1 Pet 5:6, 7; Phil. 4:6-7; Luke 18:2-8).
4. God Comforts Through Hope of the Resurrection & Eternal Life (1 Thess. 4:13-18; John 11:20-26).
5. God Comforts His Children Who Are Cast Down (Rom. 8:28; Psalm 145:13-20).

**Roger L. Leonard*

SERMON: Who is this God of Whom you speak?

TEXT: Acts 17:24-31

Intro: Paul characterized God in various ways, each to widen the message about God! God is...

1. Divine Creator - v.24.
2. Universal Lord - v.24.
3. Bountiful Giver - v.25.
4. Almighty Ruler - v.26.
5. Unseen Spirit - vs.27-28a.
6. Tender Father - vs.28b-30.
7. Righteous Judge - v.31.

Con: Praise God from Whom ALL blessings flow!

SERMON: Abounding like a Thessalonian!

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 1:3-10

Intro: Paul recalls particularly their...

1. *"Work of Faith"*(v.3): *"how ye turned to God from idols"*(v.9).
2. *"Labor of Love"*(v.3): *"to serve the living and true God"*(v.9).
3. *"Patience of Hope"*(v.3): *"to wait for His Son from heaven"*(v.10).

Con: Have you faced the claims of Christianity?

SERMON: There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth!

TEXT: Matthew 1:21, *"...and thou shalt call his name JESUS..."*

Intro: Sing me a Song about Jesus - favorite & familiar words from a beloved gospel hymn. I love to sing about Jesus. His name is above every name (Eph. 1:21; Phil. 2:9). Jesus' name is...

1. The source of salvation - Acts 4:12.
2. The center of gathering - Matthew 18:20.
3. The power of discipline - 1 Cor. 5:4.
4. The plea in prayer - John 14:14.
5. The authority in baptism - Acts 2:38; 10:48.
6. The motive in service - 3 John 7.
7. The rule in everything - Col. 3:17.

Con: One day every person will bow in submission before Jesus, the King of Kings & Lord of Lords.

SERMON: "...not I, but Christ..."

TEXT: Galatians 2:20

Intro: The attitude of John the Baptist was, "He must increase, but I must decrease." Cf. Acts 9:32-43. We see Christ in...

1. The home of Aeneas (v.34).
2. The heart of Dorcas (v.36).
3. The hope of the disciples (v.38).
4. The hands of Peter (v.40).
5. The harvest of converts (vs. 35, 42).

Con: May we live in such a way to magnify Christ and humble ourselves.

SERMON: What is SO GREAT about Salvation?

TEXT: Hebrews 2:3

Intro: Our greatest problem is SIN, thus our greatest need is the FORGIVENESS of sin. Salvation from sin is only possible in Jesus. Furthermore, Jesus is the "author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Therefore, Salvation is GREAT because of the following reasons:

1. Salvation is so great because of the PRICE that was PAID for it. Cf. 1 Cor. 6:20; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
2. Salvation is so great because of the PLAN that PRECEDES it. Cf. Romans 6:17-18 ("form of doctrine").
3. Salvation is so great because of the PLACE that is PREPARED for it. Cf. John 14:1-6; 1 Peter 1:3-5.

Con: How shall we escape if we neglect SO GREAT salvation?

SERMON: The Power of Christ's Resurrection!

TEXT: Philippians 3:10

1. The resurrection is a stable foundation of faith.
2. The resurrection is a solid inspiration of love.
3. The resurrection is sure consolation of hope.