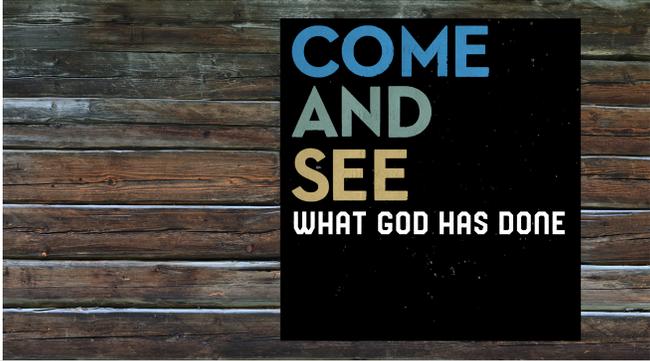


"COME AND SEE: GRATEFUL FOR GOD'S CHURCH"

Date: February 24, 2019

Speaker: Pastor Danny Clinton



**COME
AND
SEE**
WHAT GOD HAS DONE

What the Church is...

- The Church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head.

(Vs) Ephesians 1:22-23 says, "And God placed all things under His feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way."

- **Def:** The Church (body of Christ) is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) until Christ's return.
- Biblically, we may regard the church in two ways: as the Universal Church or as the Local Church.

The Universal Church: Consists of everyone, everywhere, who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

(Vs) 1 Corinthians 12:13 - "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

- This verse says that anyone who believes is part of the body of Christ and has received the Spirit of Christ as evidence...

"All those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ comprise the Universal Church."

The Local Church: Is described in (Vs) Galatians 1:1-2 "Paul, an apostle . . . and all the brothers with me, to the churches in Galatia."

- Here we see that in the province of Galatia there were many churches—they had a localized ministry and were scattered throughout the province. They were Local Churches...

- A Baptist church, a Lutheran church, an E-Free church, etc., is not *the* church, as in the universal church; rather, it is a *local* church, a local body of believers.
- **Note:** Members of the universal church should seek fellowship and edification in a local church.

In summary, the church is not a building or a denomination...

- According to the Bible, this church is the body of Christ—*"all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation."* (Vs) 1st Cor. 12:12-14
- Both the Local, and Universal Church is very alive in this way...
- But it's the Local Church where believers can fully apply the "body" principles of 1 *Corinthians Ch. 12* – encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ...

"Making the Local Church more than an organization and instead a living organism, in the same way it's not a business but a body consisting of many members and functions." – "This is What the Church is."

What the Church does...

- Example: The Lame Man let down in front of Jesus in the midst of others...(Vs) Luke 5:17-26 – "On one of those days, as he was teaching..."

The Local Church carries...

- The Lame and Alone
- The Wounded and Friendless
- The Fearful and Marginalized

Another Example: The Blind Man who was healed in spite of his own ignorance and Sin

(Vs) John 9:5-7 – "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means sent). So, he went and washed and came back seeing...

- He goes off and tells all, until those with authority found him.

(Vs) John 9:24-25 – So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner."²⁵ He answered, "Whether He is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

The Local Church remembers...

- The Forgotten and Castaway
- The Broken and Ashamed
- The Worried and Overcome

This is why what we do matters so much!

(Vs) Ephesians 3:14-21 "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.