

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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THE LORD'S CHURCH...

Larry R. Ping II

The Bible offers abundant information concerning the Lord's Church, all of which man must be aware. Did you know the Lord's Church...

1. Is Also Referred To As The Kingdom? Jesus uses the words "church" and "kingdom" synonymously in Matt. 16:18-19. Generally, when the New Testament utilizes the word kingdom, it has the Lord's Church in mind (I Cor. 15:24, Col. 1:13).

2. Was Prophesied In The Old Testament? Indeed, numerous revelations are fashioned. Notable among them is Isaiah 2:1-3, which foretells the Lord's house (I Tim. 3:15) will "come to pass in the last days," in the city of "Jerusalem" and "all nations" will be present. In addition, Daniel 2:44 predicts "in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed." These kings denote the Roman Empire, dating from 31 B.C. – 476 A.D. The Church the Bible speaks of must meet these pieces of Divine criteria, else it cannot possibly be the Lord's Church.

3. Was Purchased With The Blood Of Jesus? Luke asserted this Bible fact in Acts 20:28 when writing about "the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

4. Is The Only One Of Which The Bible Tells? In a list of seven "ones," Paul includes "there is one body" (Eph. 4:4). The "body" is identified as the "church" (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). This is why the Lord announced "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). Though the world is brimming with differing denominations and assorted religious bodies, there is but one Church. Each individual, then, should feel moved to study God's Word and locate the Lord's Church.

4. Is The Pillar And Ground Of The Truth? Paul wrote of this in his letter to the evangelist Timothy (I Tim. 3:15). These words help us to appreciate the Lord's Church is the institution through which the Lord intends to "Preach the Word" (II Tim. 4:2) and to teach the truth which "shall make you free" (Jn. 8:32). No other earthly institution has been charged with such.

5. Was Born On The Day Of Pentecost? One can read about this in Acts 2. On this great day, Jews from "every nation" were gathered. They listened to "Peter" and "the eleven" preach about "Jesus of Nazareth." Scores were "pricked in their heart" and responded to the call to "Repent, and be baptized..." The last verse of this chapter articulates "the Lord added to the church daily..." Since this day, obedient men and women have been heeding the same call, and God continues to add to the Lord's Church.

6. Is Described As A Family? Referencing the Lord's Church, Paul mentioned "the whole family in heaven and earth" (Eph. 3:15). Timothy was told the older men would be as a "father," the older women would be as "mothers," the younger men would be as his "brethren" and the younger ladies would be as his "sisters" (I Tim. 5:1-2). Notice the familial words. This family cares deeply for each other (Rom. 12:15), and shares a special love (Heb. 13:1). Be part of this family! If not, why not?

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

Larry R. Ping II

The word “consider,” as used in God’s Word, means “to learn thoroughly; to note accurately; to think about, ponder; to behold; to perceive.” Understanding this, have you considered the following?

1. Have You Considered Job? This was the twice uttered query of God in Job 1:8 and Job 2:3. He was asking Satan about Job, who was described as man who was “perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil” (Job 1:1, Job 2:3). We would do well to learn to walk in the ways of Job, who was championed in James 5:11 for his “patience.”

2. Have You Considered The Poor? The Psalmist penned “Blessed is he that considereth the poor” (Psa. 41:1). The wise man added “The righteous considereth the cause of the poor” (Prov. 29:7). Most likely, there are scores of folks much worse off than we. May we take note of them, and do our best to help in their time of need.

3. Have You Considered The Latter End? Moses wrote of this in Deut. 32:29. Each day should be lived knowing it could be our last (Heb. 9:27).

4. Have You Considered The Ant’s Way? This is the plea of Solomon in Prov. 6:6. Of the ant he writes “having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest” (Prov. 6:7-8). This wisdom is provided for those who are tempted to be lazy. Think about the ant, and be busy doing good.

5. Have You Considered Your Ways? The prophet Hosea demanded the people do so (Hos. 1:5). Special emphasis is placed upon the individual in this place. Paul wrote “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Gal. 6:1). Timothy was taught “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (I Tim. 4:16). An individual’s spiritual duty is first to himself. The individual is commanded to “keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27). Ponder your life and ensure it is in line with God’s Word.

6. Have You Considered The Lilies Of The Field? The Lord asked you to in Matt. 6:28. In Luke’s recording of the same event, he said “Consider the ravens” and “Consider the lilies” (Lk. 12:24,27). God provides for both the lily and the raven. We should understand how we are “better” than they, and God will certainly provide for us (Lk. 12:30; Matt. 6:32).

7. Have You Considered One Another? The writer of Hebrews ordered us to do so in Heb. 10:24. This directive is immediately followed by “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25). One way for a Christian to be considerate of his brethren is to be faithful and steady in his attendance. How are you doing?

8. Have You Considered God’s Testimony? David did in Psa. 119:95. May we learn to look to God’s Word first and only, for within it are “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (II Pet. 1:3).

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY
Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study – 7:00 pm