

**'New Normal' or New Testament**

Worksheet 19: **March 19, 2015**—*authority*

'Christian' people are pulling out of the church in epidemic numbers. Their reasons are myriad: "I can commune with God at home or in some natural setting"; "You don't have to go to church to be a Christian"; "Churches are full of hypocrites", and "The church is no longer what Jesus intended it to be as outlined in the New Testament". So there! But are we to accept the seeming *authenticity* of their words or the **authority** of the Word of God?

"But commonly it is found in theology that  
that which is true is not new, and that which is new is not true.  
In the case of every errant course, **there is always a first wrong step.**"  
Robert Shindler

"We say again, the main reason we accept the inerrancy of Scripture  
is not because we have all the problems worked out,  
not because we can reconcile every difficulty, but simply **because**  
**Jesus Himself said so and we believe Him because Jesus is Lord!**  
Dr. James T. Draper, Jr.

"Banquet your faith upon God's own word."  
Charles Spurgeon

**Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:**

♥**Psalm 5:7** "*But I, by your great mercy will come into **your house**, in reverence will I bow down toward **your holy temple.***"

♥**Psalm 15:1** "*LORD, who may dwell in **your sanctuary***"

♥**Psalm 48:9** "*Within **your temple**, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love.*"

♥**Psalm 52:9** "*I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope for your name is good. **I will praise you in the presence of your saints.***"

**John 2:16**

**Acts 11:26**

**Acts 20:28**

**Scripture to Memorize:**

**Matthew 16:18** "*And I tell you that you are Peter, and **on this rock** (Peter's statement of Who Jesus is) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*"

**NOTES on Speaking Session:**

**Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:**

1. Look up **1 Timothy 3:15** and list the 3 descriptions Paul spoke regarding the church. Fill in the blanks (*NIV*) below.

- \_\_\_\_\_, *which is the*  
- \_\_\_\_\_,  
*-the* \_\_\_\_\_.

2. When Paul wrote 13 books in the New Testament: 9 were addressed to the *assembled* in various locations, 3 were letters to **pastors**, and the remaining 1 letter to a **leader** in a church. List below the books Paul wrote beginning with Romans and ending with Philemon.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Write down the **main reason** you attend church in 10 words or less. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

“A high view of Scripture goes hand-in-hand with  
a high view of divine sovereignty.”

Robert Shindler

**Recommended Reading:**

*Our Sufficiency In Christ*, John MacArthur, Jr.  
*Church, Why Bother?* by Philip Yancy

*Discipleship (Followship) Ministry*  
Authority—Spring 2015—jmoore

### **REVELATION: 7 Lampstands = 7 Churches**

On May 19, 2010, for the second time in two years, I attended a Seminar on Post Modern Young Adults, and, in particular, what we have to do to reach them as a church. I was disconcerted two years ago, and then again last night as I heard that we can no longer bring them into the church in the way that we have been in the habit of doing—following Scriptural patterns (in my view)—for centuries past.

This prompted me to study the local church: its purpose, its function and its place in the end times as Scripture details. I began with another read-through of the pastoral letters—1 and 2 Timothy and Titus—and what Paul said to these pastors about the church and how it should be overseen; what it should and should not do and what it should and should not tolerate. There does not appear to be one thing that suggests that we sidestep the Scriptural pattern, and I do not find any basis to change the church's purpose, function or place for a particular group of people, however much we want them to come to saving faith—we must not enable their deception.

According to the speaker, Chris Lowry, the following statements in **bold** relate to the characteristics of the post modern young adult (represent my comments):

1. **Are turned off by criticism of other people's beliefs.** (Tolerance over truth. So that any warning or codicils against idolatry, false doctrine, myths and genealogies are off limits.)
2. **Are genuinely interested in the life and ministry of Jesus.** (Who isn't? But they pick the ministries of Jesus that they're interested in to the exclusion of his primary ministry of Redeemer, Savior, Reconciler, because they do not want to see themselves as falling short of God's standards and needing saving.)
3. **Love things and people who are authentic.** (And they would be the judge of that? Even Jesus' authenticity was questioned by the Pharisees, and who was more authentic than Christ?)
4. **Longs for community.**
5. **Very relationally driven—but likes to control the environment i.e., facebook, myspace, text messaging.** (This is all horizontal relating and controlled by them—at their whim. This is not a definition of being authentically relational—no way and no how.)
6. **Very service oriented. Wants to do mission projects more than talk about them.** (This is the most disturbing item in this list. This sounds so clever and even noble, but what is really being said? As believers, we are on mission with God in every area of our 'walk' and 'talk' while **living out our faith**. God won't send us out there, until we're *missioning* here!)

We must 'be' what God wants us to 'be' before we can authentically 'do' what He wants us to 'do' in the way of missions. When we define the need and go out to meet the need, what have we provided in the way of real need? Mary of Bethany anointed Jesus feet and Judas Iscariot became enraged that the expensive perfume had not been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus rebuked Judas: "*The poor you will always have with you*" and he applauded Mary's devotion to Himself. What about 1 Corinthians 13:1-3—we cannot have God's love working through us without a relationship with him.

**And what we do without agape' is worthless!** What in the world do we have to offer in the way of meeting the world's greatest need, before we know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord ourselves? If we want to join the *Peace Corps*, then we should do that, but we should not knowingly send **unbelievers** out to work and love in Jesus' name!)

7. **Strong sense of social justice.**

8. **Desires mentoring relationships.**

9. **Is drawn toward shared leadership styles more than one person or group making all the decisions.** (No surprise here: Rebellion is resistance, defiance and disobedience against authority. This is where we absolutely must go to Paul's pastoral letters and understand God's order of authority in our nation, in our home and in our church.)

10. **Interested in church if there is a definite benefit.** (Benefit to whom? I guess the worship of God and the fact that Scripture commands our attendance won't mean anything to unbelievers, but what about to believers? It should mean everything to us.)

11. **Interested in most religions and their beliefs.** (Idolatry has been the primary competitor next to 'self' for the devotion of the true and living God by humans since creation. And it begins with an interest in and a defense of—and quickly moves to a fascination with no-gods.)

12. **Are drawn to Jesus more out of a sense of making a difference in the world than from fear of going to hell.** (Jesus made the greatest difference for the world that has ever been made, and he wants us to carry that message—hence the great commission. We are to go and make disciples, how can one who has not received Jesus Christ as Savior go and make disciples. If they want to go and do good then that is a noble thing, but it is not the great commission that God gave to believers! I pray they are not attempting to make a difference and ignoring and failing to know and share with the lost the greatest difference.)

### *New Testament Church and Churches*

The Apostle Paul wrote 13 of the New Testament's 26 books, and all were addressed to churches or pastors or leaders. In Revelation, Jesus sent letters to seven literal churches. Look at the 79 references to church/churches in the NT:

#### **CHURCH**

- Matt 16:18 "and on this rock I will build my **church**,"
- 18:17 "refuses to listen to them, tell it to the **church**; and if he refuses to listen even to the **church**;"
- Acts 5:11 "fear seized the whole **church** and all who heard"
- 8:1 "a great persecution broke out against the **church**"
- 8:3 "But Saul began to destroy the **church**."
- 9:31 "Then the **church** throughout Judea,"
- 11:22 "News of this reached the ears of the **church**"
- 11:26 "the **church** and taught great numbers of people."
- 12:1 "that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the **church**, intending"
- 12:5 "the **church** was earnestly praying to God for him."
- 13:1 "In the **church** at Antioch there were prophets"
- 14:23 "elders for them in each **church** and,"
- 14:27 "gathered the **church** together and reported all"
- 15:3 "The **church** sent them on their way,"
- 15:4 "by the **church** and the apostles and elders,
- 15:22 "the apostles and elders, with the whole **church**,"
- 15:30 "the **church** together and delivered the letter."
- 18:22 "he went up and greeted the **church** and then went"
- 20:17 "Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the **church**."
- 20:28 "Be shepherds of the **church** of God,"
- Ro 16:1 "a servant of the **church** in Cenchrea."
- 16:5 "Greet also the **church** that meets at their house."
- 16:23 "and the whole **church** here enjoy,"
- 1 Co 1:2 "the **church** of God in Corinth, to those sanctified"
- 4:17 "with what I teach everywhere in every **church**."
- 5:12 "of mine to judge those outside the **church**?"
- 6:4 "even of men of little account in the **church**!"
- 10:32 "whether Jews, Greeks, or the **church** of God—"
- 11:18 "I hear that when you come together as a **church**,"
- 11:22 "Or do you despise the **church** of God"
- 12:28 "And in the **church** God has appointed first"
- 14:4 "but he who prophesies edifies the **church**."
- 14:5 "so that the **church** may be edified."
- 14:12 "try to excel in gifts that build up the **church**"
- 14:19 "But in the **church** I would rather speak five intelligible words"
- 14:23 "so if the whole **church** comes together"
- 14:26 "be done for the strengthening of the **church**"

- 1 Co 14:28 “in the **church** and speak to himself and God.”
- 14:35 “for a woman to speak in the **church**.”
- 15:9 “because I persecuted the **church** of God.”
- 16:19 “and so does the **church** that meets at their house.”
- 2 Co 1:1 “To the **church** of God in Corinth”
- Gal 1:13 “how intensely I persecuted the **church** of God”
- Eph 1:22 “to be head over everything for the **church**,”
- 3:10 “His intent was that now, through the **church**,”
- 3:21 “to him be glory in the **church** and in Christ Jesus”
- 5:23 “of the wife as Christ is the head of the **church**,”
- 5:24 “Now as the **church** submits to Christ,”
- 5:25 “just as Christ loved the **church** and gave himself”
- 5:27 “and to present her to himself as a radiant **church**”
- 5:29 “just as Christ does the **church**—”
- 5:32 “but I am talking about Christ and the **church**”
- Php 3:6 “as for zeal, persecuting the **church**,”
- 4:15 “not one **church** shared with me in the matter”
- Col 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the **church**,”
- 1:24 “for the sake of his body, which is the **church**.”
- 4:15 “and to Nympha and the **church** in her house.”
- 4:16 “also read in the **church** of the Laodiceans and”
- 1 Th 1:1 “To the **church** of the Thessalonians in God”
- 2 Th 1:1 “To the **church** of the Thessalonians”
- 1 Ti 3:5 “how can he take care of God’s **church**?”
- 3:15 “which is the **church** of the living God.”
- 5:16 “and not let the **church** be burdened with them,”
- 5:16 “the **church** can help those widows who are really”
- 5:17 “of the **church** well are worthy of double honor,”
- Phm 1:2 “and to the **church** that meets in your home.”
- Heb 12:23 “to the **church** of the firstborn,”
- Jas 5:14 “He should call the elders of the **church** to pray”
- 3 Jn 1:6 “They have told the **church** about your love.”
- 1:9 “I wrote to the **church**, but Diotrephes,”
- 1:10 “to do so and puts them out of the **church**.”
- Rev 2:1 “To the angel of the **church** in Ephesus write:”
- 2:8 “To the angel of the **church** in Smyrna write:”
- 2:12 “To the angel of the **church** in Pergamum write:”
- 2:18 “To the angel of the **church** in Thyatira write:”
- 3:1 “To the angel of the **church** in Sardis write:”
- 3:7 “To the angel of the **church** in Philadelphia write:”
- 3:14 “To the angel of the **church** in Laodicea write:”

**CHURCHES**

- Ac 15:41 “and Cilicia, strengthening the **churches**.”
- 16:5 “so the **churches** were strengthened in the faith”
- Ro 16:4 “the **churches** of the Gentiles are grateful to them.”
- 16:16 “All the **churches** of Christ send greetings.”

- 1 Co 7:17 "This is the rule I lay down in all the **churches**."
- 11:16 "nor do the **churches** of God."
- 14:34 "women should remain silent in the **churches**."
- 16:1 "Do what I told the Galatian **churches** to do."
- 16:19 "The **churches** in the province of Asia"
- 2 Co 8:1 "that God has given the Macedonian **churches**."
- 8:18 "by all the **churches** for his service to the gospel."
- 8:19 "he was chosen by the **churches** to accompany us"
- 8:23 "they are representatives of the **churches** and"
- 8:24 "so that the **churches** can see it."
- 11:8 "I robbed other **churches** by receiving support"
- 11:28 "the pressure of my concern for all the **churches**."
- 12:13 "How were you inferior to the other **churches**,"
- Gal 1:2 "To the **churches** in Galatia:"
- 1:22 "to the **churches** of Judea that are in Christ."
- 1 Th 2:14 "became imitators of God's **churches** in Judea,"
- 2:14 "the same thing those **churches** suffered from"
- 2 Th 1:4 "among God's **churches** we boast"
- Rev 1:4 "To the seven **churches** in the province of Asia:"
- 1:11 "and send it to the seven **churches**:"
- 1:20 "seven stars are the angels of the seven **churches**,"
- 1:20 "and the seven lampstands are the seven **churches**."
- 2:7 "let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**." (1<sup>st</sup> time)
- 2:11 "let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**." (2<sup>nd</sup> time)
- 2:17 "let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**." (3<sup>rd</sup> time)
- 2:23 "Then all the **churches** will know"
- 2:29 "let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**." (4<sup>th</sup> time)
- 3:6 "let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**." (5<sup>th</sup> time)
- 3:13 "let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**." (6<sup>th</sup> time)
- 3:22 "let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**." (7<sup>th</sup> time)
- 22:16 "to give you this testimony for the **churches**."

"Never neglect the means of grace.

God may bless us when we are not in his house,  
but we have the greater reason to hope that he will  
when we are in communion with His saints."

Charles Spurgeon

*"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and **members of God's household**,  
<sup>20</sup>**built** on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
**with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone**.  
<sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and  
**ris****es to become a holy temple in the Lord.**"*

**Ephesians 2:19-21**