

The Church

There are a growing number of Christian people today who think that **church** is not important. They believe that the only thing that really matters is if a person “*believes in Jesus*” and tries to live a good life. But what they don’t realize is that **the church is an essential part of God’s eternal plan**. This morning we begin a new series of lessons on *The Church*.

The Testimony of the Church

- *You are the Christ the Son of the Living God* – Matthew 16:13-17
- This is our Testimony

The Foundation of the Church

- *Upon this Rock . . .* – Matthew 16:18a
- Faith in Jesus **is** the Foundation of our obedience – John 8:24

The Builder of the Church

- *I will build my church* – Matthew 16:18b; Ephesians 3:8-11
- Jesus is the architect and builder of the church – Ephesians 4:11-16

The Assurance of the Church

- *The gates of Hades will not prevail against it* – Matthew 16:18c
- Death cannot prevail against us – John 11:25; Revelation 1:18

The Authority of the Church

- *I will give to you the keys of the kingdom* – Matthew 16:19; 28:18-20
- What are the keys? – Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-42