

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

September 25, 2022

## The Mission of the Church Lesson 2 - Within a True Monarchy

This morning we continue our series called "The Mission of the Church", by looking at the organization of God's church. This will be our topic for the new two weeks. Recently there has been a lot of attention on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the coronation of King Charles III as the new monarch of the United Kingdom. While the royal family in Britain generates a lot of interest, their rule is largely ceremonial.

Unlike these ceremonial monarchies, those of us who are the "called out" (ekklēsia), the church, we serve within a true monarchy. In this monarchy, we have one, true king who has absolute and total power.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus is given the title "Christ" in scripture (**Matthew 1:1; Acts 2:36**). This title literally means "anointed one" and is used to describe not only His role as our savior but also to emphatically state that He is our king (**Isaiah 9:6-7; John 18:36; Revelation 19:11-16**). There can be no doubt from scripture that this Christ is the head of the church (**Ephesians 1:22**). In His role as king and the head of the church, God the father has given him "All authority in heaven and on earth..." (**Matthew 28:18**).

What about an earthly head of the church? Roman Catholics point to Peter as the first "Pope," or earthly head of the universal church. Their claim is largely based on the statement of Jesus in **Matthew 16:18** where He says, "you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." However, Jesus is not saying that He will build His church on who Peter was (his person), but instead on what Peter had said. Back in **verse 16**, Peter had made the confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This is the truth upon which the Lord's church is built. That Jesus is the Christ, the King!

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ - As king and head of the Church, Jesus governs by His Word. If we want to be part of His church, we have to follow His truth (**Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11**). This is the standard

trust  
in the  
Lord  
with all your  
heart  
& lean not on your  
own understanding  
Proverbs  
3:5

*"I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him."*

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bible class topics

*May God give you...  
For every storm, a rainbow  
For every tear, a smile  
For every care, a promise  
And a blessing in each trial  
For every problem life sends,  
A faithful friend to share  
For every sigh a sweet song  
And an answer for each  
prayer*

by which all local churches must function and uphold (**I Timothy 3:14-15**). It is what we are built on (**Ephesians 2:19-22**).

Some might ask whether the church should have an earthly headquarters or hierarchy. The model of the New Testament is that each local church functions autonomously under the guidance of local leadership whose mandate is to uphold and protect the truth of the Gospel. This truth is a roadmap for each church to follow and provides a basis for unity among churches. What about the Jerusalem Council in **Acts 15**? Doesn't this pave the way for an earthly headquarters? Is this a pattern we should follow?

We must remember there was not a written New Testament for these churches to use to answer the question of whether or not Gentiles should be required to follow the law of Moses, so James, Peter, and Paul are communicating through this council, and the letter they wrote, the desires of God's Holy Spirit (**Acts 15:28**). This is not needed today. We are led by God's revealed Word as delivered by the same Holy Spirit.

The same concept also applies to the question of whether there are still Apostles of Jesus Christ today (**Ephesians 4:11**). The Apostles were tasked with taking the Gospel to "all nations" (**Matthew 28:19**). Their mission was to deliver the word of Christ before there was a written New Testament. One of the qualifications to be an Apostle of Jesus Christ was to have seen the risen Jesus (**Acts 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 9:1-2**). No one alive today has seen Him the risen Jesus, and the work of the Apostles of Jesus Christ has been completed. We now have the truth of Christ revealed through God's Holy Spirit in the New Testament. This was made possible by their work (**Ephesians 2:20**).

## PRAYER LIST

- Elizabeth's grandmother **Carolyn Sales** has been diagnosed with cancer
- **Bill Gillock** had a stroke
- We rejoice with **Kristine Garrett** as her cancer continues to improve
- **Maria Hunter Harrington**, a friend of the Billingsleys, has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington, Carolyn Pennington** and **Judy Grissom**, relatives of the Reeds, have breast cancer. **Vicki Reed** has been diagnosed with Myeloma as well
- **Donna Rawls Head** has cancer
- Continue to pray for: those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Kim Waller, Delores Coleman**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Gaynell Walker, Rosemary Douglas, Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

★ There will be a men's meeting this afternoon at 5

## SERVING TODAY (September 25, 2022)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Read:** R. Mayo  
**Prayer:** C. Baker

### WORSHIP

**Read:** J. Buchanan  
**Wait On Table:** E. Walker  
**Serve:** D. Billingsley, D. Demonbreun  
**Prayer:** J. Baker