



Lesson #1 = God's Vision

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds on Sunday AM (10-7-12)

TEXT: (Matthew 16:17-19)

Introduction: Today our church family is preparing to embark on a new journey together. We have prayed, planned, prepared, and now it is time to PROSPER! We are officially breaking ground today on a new facility that will help us to meet the needs of this church family, community, and our many visitors. Right now we are building on God's dream and fulfilling His mission. Do you remember the rhyme we learned as kids: "Here's the church. Here's the steeple. Open it up and here's all the people!" Let's break this up, look it over, and see how to build the church together.....

Discussion:

I. "Here's the Church"

We are the Body of Christ (**Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18**).

We are the Bond of Mankind (**Ephesians 3:6, Ephesians 4:3**).

We are the Bride of Christ (**Ephesians 5:23, 25, 32, Revelation 19:7**).

We are the Battalion of God (**Ephesians 6:12-20, Romans 12:1-2**).

We are the Builders of the Kingdom (**Ephesians 2:5, 21-22, Ephesians 4:16**).

II. "Here's the Steeple"

We are Christ-Centered Kingdom Builders (**Ephesians 1:23-2:24**).

We are Chosen to be Kingdom Builders (**Ephesians 1:4-5**).

We are Children of the King as Kingdom Builders (**Ephesians 1:5**).

We are Celebrating the Grace of God as Kingdom Builders (**Ephesians 1:6-7**).

We are Confident Kingdom Builders (**Ephesians 1:11-14**).

III. "Here's the People"

We are Enabled by Supernatural Strength (**Philippians 4:4-13**).

We are Educated by Supernatural Leaders (**Ephesians 4:11-16**).

We are Edified by Supernatural Gifts (**Romans 12:3-13**).

We are Encouraged by Supernatural Spiritual Growth (**Acts 16:5, John 13:34-35, I Peter 2:22-25, Ephesians 2:14**).

We are Enthused by Supernatural Physical Growth (**Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:32-35, Acts 9:31**).

Conclusion: I originally wanted to title this message: "The Future is Bright, So Shine Your Light." There is no better time than now to start shining your light and becoming that city on a hill! Remember that there is only one church, it belongs to God, it emphasizes Christ, and collectively we work as a unit to help it grow. For this reason, we have some building to do! Are you seeking dream for your life? Are you helping to build on the dream for His church? Let's get right church!

WORD OF THE DAY = "Vision"