



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds



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*Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock ***I will build My church***, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Matthew 16:17-19

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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for the purpose of Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Dr. Steven Guy, Everett Ferguson, C. Wayne Kilpatrick, J. Vernon McGee, David Padfield, James Burton Coffman, and various other sources.



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Outline by Ray Reynolds

Lesson #1 = God's Dream

TEXT: (Matthew 28:18-20)

Introduction: The Bible often talks about God's foreknowledge or His predetermined purposes for sending Christ and preparing for the establishment of the church. You get the idea that God dreamed of the day He would set the captives free, spiritually. But just what has God dreamt of in reference to the church? Here are some things that He expects to have His dreams fulfilled for the church. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. A Church That Cares (Luke 10:25-37, I Peter 3:8).

We need to be compassionate, loving, merciful, forgiving, and genuine.

II. A Church That Lifts Up Christ in the Community (John 4:27-30, John 12:32).

We need to have edification and evangelism on the top of our priority list.

III. A Church That Bears Fruit (John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23).

We need to be looking for ways do good works and serve people.

IV. A Church That Has Spiritual Leadership (Acts 20:28-38, I Timothy 3:1-13).

We need to have biblical, dynamic, visionary leaders that will be effective.

V. A Church That Uses Their Talents (Ephesians 4:11-16, I Peter 4:10-11).

We need to find our talents and use them to the glory of God.

VI. A Church That Is A Family Of Believers (I Thessalonians 1:1-10, I John 3:1).

We need to become better acquainted with each other and have more fellowship.

VII. A Church That Dares To Be Different (Hebrews 10:19-25, I Peter 2:9).

We need to be bold, prayerful, and positive in our approach to ministry.

Conclusion: Can you declare that you are following God? Have you done everything that God has required of you? Have you heard the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17**), believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (**John 8:24; Acts 4:12; 16:31; Hebrews 11:6**), repented of your sins (**Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30**), confessed the deity of Christ (**Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37-38**), been baptized for the remission of your sins (**Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 22:16; Colossians 2:11ff; Galatians 3:24ff; I Peter 3:21**), or are you walking in newness of life (**Romans 6:3-7, II Timothy 4:6-8, Revelation 2:10**)? Can you say that you are doing your part to be the church of God's dreams? What can we do to help you today? Let's get right church!



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Outline by Ray Reynolds

Lesson #2 = God's Work

TEXT: (Mark 16:15-16)

Introduction: In our last lesson we discussed God's dreams in reference to the church. This should help us to see that there should also be a vision for the servants of God that are a part of His Body, the church. However, we have to work! This is God's will for us. Here are some things that should be a part of the dreams of one of God's servants. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. We Are Chosen To Serve (John 13:1-11, Ephesians 4:1)

We want to be chosen by God, Christians, teachers, elders, deacons, etc.

II. We Are Chosen To Be Like Jesus (Philippians 2:5, I Peter 2:21-25)

Being a Christian is more than just going to church and reading your Bible.

III. We Are Chosen To Be Responsible (Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 12:47-48)

We need to set high expectations, but make our goals attainable.

IV. We Are Chosen To Use Our Talents (Romans 12:6, Ephesians 4:11-16)

We all have spiritual gifts according to the grace given us.

V. We Are Chosen To Make a Difference (Acts 1:8, Acts 17:6)

We have to consider what they did, how they did it, and what resulted.

VI. We Are Chosen To Recruit Others (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16)

We must have vision, and in order to have vision we must keep dreaming.

VII. We Are Chosen To Be Rewarded (II Timothy 4:6-8, Revelation 2:10)

We must know that the greatest reward ever given man is waiting for us.

Conclusion: Can you declare that you are a servant of God? Have you done everything that God has required of you? Have you heard the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17**), believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (**John 8:24; Acts 4:12; 16:31; Hebrews 11:6**), repented of your sins (**Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30**), confessed the deity of Christ (**Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37-38**), been baptized for the remission of your sins (**Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 22:16; Colossians 2:11ff; Galatians 3:24ff; I Peter 3:21**), or are you walking in newness of life (**Romans 6:3-7, II Timothy 4:6-8, Revelation 2:10**)? Can you say that you have these dreams as a servant of God? What can we do to help you today? Let's get right church!



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Outline by Ray Reynolds

Lesson #3 = God's Vision

TEXT: (Matthew 16:17-19)

Introduction: God has a dream! 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. Let's study 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, 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 King's Grace 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!



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Lesson #4 = God's Temple

TEXT: (Matthew 21:12-16)

Introduction: The real church is made up of those who will occupy it and use it. In our last lesson together, we considered three simple steps to remember the Lord's work and vision for building His church. Today we will see the importance of His temple. When we seek God's vision and build on His dream we can see that sometimes God has to clean house! What can we learn about the temple of God? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Reaction to the Profaning of the Temple

The Old Testament Temple

Matthew 21:12, I Kings 8:10-11, II Chronicles 5:13-14

The New Testament Temple

Acts 2:38, Acts 2:39, Romans 8:1-39

The Zeal For God's Temple

I John 1:5, Ephesians 4:26, I Corinthians 6:19-20

II. Response by the Purging of the Temple

The Whip of Discipline

Matthew 21:12, John 2:15, Hebrews 12:5-8

The Work of Disruption

Matthew 6:33, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Hebrews 12:10-11

The Word of Discernment

Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:11, Psalm 8:2, Matthew 21:14

III. Realizing the Purpose of the Temple

The Temple is a House of Prayer

Matthew 21:13, I Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6

The Temple is a House of Power

Matthew 21:14, Matthew 11:11, John 10:41-42

The Temple is a House of Praise

Matthew 21:15-16, Psalm 34:1-3, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Revelation 3:20

Conclusion: God will build His church and He will take control of His temple. What does Jesus need to remove from your life? What are you doing to ensure that your body is a holy temple for the Holy Spirit of God? Are you seeking God's vision and dream for your life? Are you helping to build on the dream for His church? We offer an invitation to you so that you can get on board with God. Let's get right church!



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Lesson Outline by Ray Reynolds

Lesson #5 = God's Family

TEXT: (Acts 2:41-47)

Introduction: For the past few Sundays we have considered God's dream, work, vision for building His church, and His temple. Today we are going to consider God's family. What can we learn from the church? How did they G.R.O.W.? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Church Family Was Godly

Their godliness came from a sacrificial spirit.

Acts 2:44-45, II Corinthians 8:5, 12:15, Romans 12:1-2

Their godliness followed a steadfast faith in the Lord.

Acts 2:43-44, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:6

Their godliness established strong faithfulness to church.

Acts 2:42, 47, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 20:7

II. The Church Family Was Receptive

They were receptive because they had open hearts and minds.

Acts 2:37, 41, Matthew 28:18-20, Colossians 1:23

They were receptive because they were unwilling to change the truth.

Acts 2:42, Galatians 1:10, Acts 8:4; II Corinthians 11:23-28

They were receptive because they were full of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 8:1-39, Galatians 5:22-23

III. The Church Family Was Obedient

Their obedience led them to be steadfast.

Acts 2:42, I Corinthians 15:58, Romans 12:12, Colossians 1:23

Their obedience led them to be peaceful.

Acts 2:44-45, 6:1, Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 14:19, Ephesians 4:3

Their obedience led them to be joyful.

Acts 2:46-47, Philippians 4:4, John 15:11, 16:24

IV. The Church Family Was Working

They worked to be faithful in worship.

Acts 2:42, John 4:24, Acts 20:7

They worked to use their talents.

Acts 2:43, Ephesians 4:11-16, Matthew 25:14-30

They worked to take care of the needs of others.

Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:32-25, Philippians 2:4

Conclusion: God will build His church and He will lead His family. Are you seeking God's vision and dream for your life? Are you helping to build on the dream for His church? Are you following your Heavenly Father? Let's get right church!



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Lesson #6 = God's Word

TEXT: (Acts 20:17-38)

Introduction: For the past several Sundays we have considered God's dream for His church. Obviously, we need to build upon that dream! Today we are going to consider the church as it is built upon God's Word. What can we learn from the early church? How did the Word of God help to shape their thinking and actions? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Word of God Builds The Spirit of the Church

- The spirit of the church was contagious (**Acts 2:41-47**).
- The spirit of the church was consuming (**Acts 17:11**).
- The spirit of the church was cultivating (**Acts 20:32**).
- The spirit of the church was connecting (**Acts 28:30-31**).

II. The Word of God Builds The Faith of the Church

- The faith of the church was essential (**Romans 10:17**).
- The faith of the church was elementary (**James 2:26**).
- The faith of the church was established (**Colossians 2:6-7**).
- The faith of the church was evident (**II Timothy 2:1-2**).

III. The Word of God Builds The Image of the Church

- The image of the church reflects a kingdom (**Matthew 16:18**).
- The image of the church reflects a temple (**Ephesians 2:20-21**).
- The image of the church reflects a body (**Ephesians 4-5**).
- The image of the church reflects a hospital (**Romans 14:19**).

IV. The Word of God Builds The Wisdom of the Church

- The wisdom of the church begins with fear (**Proverbs 1:7**).
- The wisdom of the church increases with friends (**Proverbs 13:10**).
- The wisdom of the church strengthens with family (**Luke 2:52**).
- The wisdom of the church depends on the foundation (**Matthew 7:24-27**).

Conclusion: The church was provided to the people of God with the intent of it being one of the greatest blessings to world! The Lord wants His church to grow and build. He wants it to be built upon the right foundation. We need the Word of God to keep us in check! Have you allowed the Word of God to build up your spirit? Have you established your faith? Have you been added to the Lord's church? Let's get right church!



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Lesson #7 = God's Reward

TEXT: (II Timothy 4:6-8)

Introduction: We need to know the dream of God and then we need to build upon that dream! In this lesson we will wrap up our series. We will consider the reward's God has in store for those who build on His dream. Let's study together...

I. God Wants to Redeem His People

Eternal life is an answer to prayer (**Genesis 3:15, John 3:16**).

Eternal life is available in Jesus Christ (**John 10:10, I John 1:2, 5:20**).

Eternal life is attainable in Jesus Christ (**I Timothy 6:12, 19**).

Eternal life is administered in baptism (**Matthew 16:15-16, Acts 2:38**).

Eternal life is assurance of an eternity with God (**John 14:1-6**).

II. God Wants to Refresh His People

His people can be born again into a new life (**John 3:3,5**).

His people can drink the water of life (**John 4:14**).

His people can eat the bread of life (**John 6:50-58**).

His people can find everlasting joy (**John 10:10, 15:11**).

His people can one day eat from the tree of life (**Revelation 2:7**).

III. God Wants to Receive His People

His people have the inheritance of eternal life (**Matthew 19:29**).

His people have an invitation to eternal life (**Matthew 25:46**).

His people have everlasting assurance (**II Corinthians 5:1, I John 5:13**).

His people have the promise of eternal life (**I Timothy 4:8, I John 2:25**).

His people have the hope of eternal life (**Titus 1:2, 3:7**).

IV. God Wants to Reward His People

His people will reign in eternal life (**Daniel 7:18, Romans 5:17**).

His people will be preserved for eternal life (**John 10:28-29**).

His people will be resurrected to eternal life (**Daniel 12:2, John 5:29**).

His people will reap the blessing of eternal life (**Galatians 6:8**).

His people will experience the mercy of God (**Jude 21, II Timothy 4:6-8**).

Conclusion: We have considered God's dream, work, vision, temple, family and Word. This series closes with final thoughts on God's reward. The church was provided to the people of God with the intent of it being one of the greatest blessings to world! The Lord wants His church to grow and build. Have you allowed the Word of God to build up your spirit? Have you established your faith? Have you been added to the Lord's church? Let's get right church!