

# Why Church?

Bethel Baptist Church, Vandalia  
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42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord **will come**. 43 **But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.** 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. 45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. Matthew 24:42-47 (NIV)

**Through the local church, God both accomplishes His purposes and blesses His people with:**

## 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Authentic \_\_\_\_\_

*You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God! Psalm 68:35 (NIV)*

### **Poor substitutes for worship:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Lasting \_\_\_\_\_

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47 (NKJV)

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, Ephesians 2:19 (NKJV)

## 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Positive \_\_\_\_\_

*God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son... We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. Romans 8:29 (MSG)*

*Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out... Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:2 (MSG)*

*Take on an entirely new way of life – a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you. Ephesians 4:22 (MSG)*

## 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Meaningful \_\_\_\_\_

25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:25-28 (NKJV)

## 5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a Worldwide \_\_\_\_\_

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

*As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. John 17:18 (NKJV)*