**Series: BELIEVE**

**Today: Church: How Will God Accomplish His Plan?**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman**

**Key Idea: I believe the church is God’s primary way of accomplishing His purposes on earth.**

**JOEL SMITH VIDEO**

**1. It is your high privilege to be a member of the church.**

***Ephesians 3: 10***

*10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,*

***Ephesians 3:21***

*21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

***Matthew 16:16-18***

*16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.
18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

**2. The Church is both Divine and Human.**

**3. Why is the Church So Important?**

A. The church belongs to Jesus Christ.

***Acts 20:28***

*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*

B. Jesus is the head of the church.

***Ephesians 5:23***

*For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.*

C. The church is God’s primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth.

D. The Church has an eternal destiny.

**4. Let’s Really Do Church**

**Hebrews 10:19–25**

24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**A.** Our Habits

* Consider
* Spur
* Meet
* Encourage

B. Our Foundation

*19Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

*23Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*

**5. Are You Taking Church Life Seriously?**

***I Corinthians 3:16, 17***

*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.*

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