

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM

Text: Hebrews 10:16-25 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. 19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And **having an high priest over the house of God**; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is**; but exhorting one another: **and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Introduction: *WHAT A STRANGE TITLE FOR A SERMON! How can such a titled sermon be taken seriously? What is the follow-up message behind such a silly titled sermon as: ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM?*
THE HEART OF THE SERMON IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. *It is an observation of normal daily life in America – BUSY, BUSY, BUSY or ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM*
2. *It is an observation of MISPLACED PRIORITIES of life in America – Racing away from the more important things of life – Racing toward the lesser important things of life – With little or no thought of God*

ZOOMING, with lightning speed, RIGHT PASS ETERNAL THINGS, with eternal consequences!

ZOOMING, with lightning speed, TOWARD TEMPORAL THINGS – with little or no thoughts toward God, our own eternal soul, or the immortal souls of those we love!

The list of Lesser Things (each person's list make differ slightly but they are all LESSER THINGS)
Daily routine activities such as: jobs – business activities - buying groceries – running errands - school activities – weekend pleasures – family functions – cooking – cleaning - resting from all the daily things – ON & ON - ETC., ETC.

3. ZOOMING past Churches shows a lack of respect toward God's provision for Salvation!
Churches are a Witness of GOD'S WORK ON EARTH FOR THE SALVATION OF MAN!
 - *Noah's Ark was really GOD'S ARK – God planned, designed, and oversaw, - Noah obeyed and built*
 - *Churches are really GOD'S CHURCHES – planned by God, designed in the mind of Christ, and managed by the HOLY SPIRIT*
 - *Churches (like Noah's Ark) stand as a witness that GOD IS REAL, GOD HAS A PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF A FALLEN WORLD, and, GOD WANTS TO SAVE THE LOST!*
 - *Churches are Spiritual Lighthouses given by God to a World covered in Total Spiritual Darkness!*

I. The Recognized Importance of the Church in America Today!

Although God isn't impressed with buildings and the early church met in private homes, today, we have many dedicated buildings for the sole purpose of meeting to worship and learn more about God!

- How many Churches in America today – 370,000 (*ref.: Hartford Institute*) = **1 church for every 905 people** in America (based on U.S. population of 335 million people)
- How many Churches in Tipton County TN – 151 (*ref.: Google AI*) = **1 church for every 411 people** (based on population of 62, 015 people (2023))
- USA Churches vs Other Businesses

- Starbucks – 16,000 vs 370,000 - **23 times more churches**
 - McDonalds - 14,000 vs 370,000 – **26 times more churches**
 - All Fast-Food Restaurants in America – 207,827 vs 370,000 **1.8 times more churches**
 - Walmart – 4,615 vs 370,000 – **80 times more churches**
- Annual Church Revenue in America – **\$74.5 billion** (ref.: Google AI)
- Estimated value of all Church Properties in America = **\$1 trillion** (estimated) (ref.: Google AI)

II. How much Time and Support does America give to its Churches of Today?

Church Attendance in America (Ref.: Gallup Poll dated March 25, 2024)

- 21 % of U.S adults attend church every week
- 9 % of U.S adults attend church almost every week
- 11 % of U.S adults attend church about every month
- 25 % of U.S adults seldom attend church
- 31 % U.S adults never attend church

RESULTS of poll – 67% of U.S. adults – attend about once a month - seldom - or never attend church!

Modern Trend of Church Attendance – 85% of pre-pandemic levels (ref.: Lifeway Research) –

Church Attendance Decline 2000 -2023 – attend church every week or near weekly - 12% decline
no religious affiliation - + 12% increase

HENCE THE SERMON'S TITLE – ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM

2/3 OF ALL ADULTS in AMERICA ZOOM RIGHT BY THE CHURCH with little or no thought of its importance to their immortal soul or to the salvation of their families! **Million & millions of people in America seldom or never think on God – if they do – why aren't they serving HIM in His House?**

III. The Spiritual Importance of the Church

- (1) *Christ Established the Church* - **Matthew 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- (2) *Christ is the Head of the Church* – **Colossians 1:17-18** And he (Jesus) is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...
- (3) *The Holy Spirit watches over the Churches* - the letters to the **SEVEN CHURCHES IN REVELATION**
- (4) *Christ gives to the Church its Leaders* – **Ephesians 4:11-12** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- (5) *The Holy Spirit gives Power and Gift to its members* – **I Corinthians 12:8-11** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: **But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.**
- (6) *Christ uses the church to DRAW sinners unto salvation* – **John 6:44** No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.
John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.
- (7) *The Church is a place of REFUGE FROM A FALLEN WORLD* – a place to:

- *gather spiritual strength from God and His people*
- *fellowship with people of like faith and serve God with our talents and abilities*
- *bring our families and teach them about the importance of serving God*
- *worship God Corporately and in public - **Matthew 18:20** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*
- *pray privately to God and unite in prayer for one another – **Matthew 18:19** Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*
- *hear God's WORD preached and taught*
- *see and hear testimonies of God working in the lives of His people*
- *mature, grow, and become more like Christ*

IV. God Designed Christians to Serve Him in a 3-Fold Way – Serve Him:

1. *In a Private and Personal Manner - (our text) **Hebrews 10:19-22** Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*
2. *Within the Context of a Church - (our text) **Matthew 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*
3. *To Serve as a Voice, a Light, and an Ambassador for His Kingdom to a Lost and Fallen World
THE GREAT COMMISSION – **Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.*

**CLOSING - ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM – even in the fast-paced and busy modern world of today -
WE MUST NOT NEGLECT OUR DUTY IN ANY OF THE 3-FOLD ASSIGNMENT OF SERVICE UNTO
GOD! - ALL OF THEM ARE ESSENTIAL IN LIVING A LIFE THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD!**

A Double Warning from Jesus in the same chapter of Matthew 24: A GENERATION TOO BUSY!!!

Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:48-51 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth

Genesis 5:28-30 And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed. And Lamech lived after he begat Noah **five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:**

What happened to Noah's Brothers and Sisters – They didn't Listen to Noah's Warnings

- they didn't follow God – they all died in the Great Flood! –

They were too busy - Eating, and Drinking, and Giving in Marriage - ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM!