

## THE GLOBAL CHURCH

### 1. Definitions

- a. **The true church – the collection of all born-again believers from the time of Pentecost until the rapture.**

Romans 8:30 – “And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”

1 Corinthians 1:2 – “To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours ...”

- b. **The visible church – the collection of all people who are members or participants of a local church, who may or may not be true believers.**
- c. **The true global church – the collection of true believers around the world at the current time.**

Matthew 13:37-39 – “He answered, ‘The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.’”

### 2. The Global Church

- a. **Statistics** – these statistics refers to the current collection of all people around the world who call themselves “Christian,” or who are counted as Christians by their governments or denominations; they may or may not be true believers, i.e. the visible global church.

**Approximately 2.5 billion “Christians” worldwide – 631 million in Africa; 600 million in Latin America; 580 million in Europe; 394 million in South America; 260 million in USA; 147 million in China; 118 million in Russia; 100 million in Philippines.**

- b. **Persecution**  
i. **By Men**

John 15:20 – “Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.”

1 Thessalonians 3:3-4 – “... so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them. In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.”

## ii. By Satan

Job 1:7 – “The LORD said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the LORD, ‘From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.’”

Ephesians 6:12 – “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Revelation 2:8,10 – “To the angel of the church of Smyrna write: ‘Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.’”

In Papua New Guinea, I felt oppressed. Our son David was harassed by an evil spirit.

### c. Top Three Countries For Christian Persecution

- i. **North Korea – approx. 300,000 Christians. Main religion is atheism. Government is communist dictatorship.**
- ii. **Afghanistan – only a few thousand Christians. Main religion is Islam. Government is Islamic Republic.**
- iii. **Somalia – only a few hundred Christians. Main religion is Islam. Government is Federal Republic.**

### d. False Religions

- i. **False prophets and false teachers (2 Peter 2:1), false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13), false gospel (Galatians 1:6-7), false Christs (Matthew 24:23-24).**

2 Peter 2:1 – “But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.”

2 Corinthians 11:13 – “For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.”

Galatians 1:6-7 – “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.”

Matthew 24:23-24 – “At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

## ii. Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, paganism, New Age, occult

- iii. **Syncretism – “the combination or merging of two or more religions.” Many times, missionaries will find that some of the teachings and terminology of Christianity have been combined with paganism, e.g. Christian symbols or icons become just another idol to worship. David Blackman told me that he was concerned that the Alyawarra elders would consider the Bible just another power source (a talisman or magic object).**

**The Apostle Paul noticed syncretism among the “circumcision group” who wanted to combine the Mosaic law with the gospel.**

Galatians 2:11-14 – “When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, ‘You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?’”

- iv. **Cult – “A religious group following the teachings of a particular person or organization who will claim authority higher than the Scriptures and will reject the Biblical truths regarding the Trinity, Christ and salvation.” Beware – many cults use Christian terminology and present themselves as Christians, e.g. Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, Christian Science, “Moonies.”**
- v. **Compromising Christianity with culture or politics**

**Wearing clothes in Hawaii  
Liberation theology / Marxism  
Feminism theology**

### **3. The Lost**

- a. **Statistics – worldwide**  
**Approximately 1.8 billion Muslims; 1.1 billion Hindus; 14.8 million Jews; plus 2.2 billion “other” non-Christians.**
- b. **Under Satan’s Power**

Ephesians 2:2 – “... in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”

1 John 5:19 – “We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”

Revelation 2:12 – “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.’”

#### **4. The Great Commission**

Matthew 28:18-20 – “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

##### **a. Missionaries**

###### **i. Called and sent by Christ**

John 15:16 – “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

John 17:18 – “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”

###### **ii. Ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20) and co-laborers with God (2 Corinthians 6:1)**

###### **iii. Have the authority of Christ**

Luke 9:1-2 – “When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

Luke 10:16-19 – “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”

###### **iv. Endure difficult – even impossible! – conditions and circumstances**

2 Corinthians 6:4-10 [Use Bible.]

##### **b. Home Church – Support Missionaries**

**i. Send**

Acts 13:1-3 – “Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”

**ii. Provide finances****iii. Pray**

Romans 15:31 – “Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea ...”

Ephesians 6:19-20 – “Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

Colossians 4:3-4 – “And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.”

**iv. Serve as short-term helpers and support workers**

Philippians 2:22 – “But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”

2 Timothy 4:11 – “Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.”

**5. The Goal – The Purpose and Promise of God for His Church****a. Christ Promises To Build His Church**

Matthew 16:18 – “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.”

**i. He raises up pastors, elders, preachers, teachers, evangelists, disciplers, deacons, servants**

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 27-31. Use the Bible.

**ii. He protects His church**

John 17:15 – “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”

2 Thessalonians 3:3 – “But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”

Colossians 2:15 – “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

**b. An abundant harvest**

Matthew 9:37-38 – “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

Revelation 5:9-10 – “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.’”

**c. Victory for the church**

1 John 3:8 – “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”

Revelation 11:15-18 – “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.’”

And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: ‘We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.’”