

Assignment #4 “The Church in God’s Plan”

Principle:

Passages: Matthew 16:13-18; 28:19-20 Acts 1:8; 2:41-47; 8:1-3; 11:22-30
13:1-4; 14:21-28; 15:1-4, 22-36;
16:4; 18:22-23; 21:17-19

Please study these verses and then answer the following questions. Be concise in your answers. List specific principles that you glean from your study of these passages and give the accompanying scripture reference.

1. What do the passages from Matthew 16 and 28 reveal about God’s plan to bring people to Himself during this age?
2. From Acts, what observations do you make concerning the establishment, growth, and expansion of the church? Describe the relationship between the expansion of the church and the spread of the gospel.
3. As a “missionary,” describe the relationship Paul had with the church in Jerusalem (Acts 11:22; 15:1-4; 16:4; 21:17-19) and the church at Syrian Antioch (Acts 11:22-30; 13:1-4; 14:21-28; 15:1-4, 30-33; 18:22-23).
4. From your study of the verses, do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Why or why not? *“God’s perfect design and plan for reaching the world and maturing believers is through the multiplication of local churches.”*
5. In your view, how do organizations that are outside the local church (such as Billy Graham, Promise Keepers, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, etc.) fit in with God’s design? What relationship should these “para-church” organizations have with the local church? What might this relationship practically look like?
6. What might be some of the downsides for individuals who go out to do missionary work, but are not sent out or commissioned by a local church?
7. How does the rest of the New Testament fit into the pattern we see in Acts?
8. Summarize this assignment into a short principle statement and write it in the space above.
9. How might this lesson impact you or your family? Specifically in the way you invest your time? Your talents and giftedness? Your treasure or finances?
10. How would you seek to help another apply this principle in their life?