



Alpha & Omega  
Christian Worship Center  
1110 39<sup>th</sup> St, Newport News, VA 23607

## Speak Lord - Why Should I go to Church?

### Why am I connected to the Body?

*Pastor K. Franklin, Sermon Notes/ Sunday, 23 Nov 2008*  
Outline is available at <http://www.alphaomegaworship.org/Resources.htm>  
Listen to the sermon online at <http://www.alphaomegaworship.org/Audio.htm>

### Role of Prophet

#### EPHESIANS 4:

11. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;
13. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
14. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
15. But speaking the truth in love, my grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ;
16. From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying itself in love.

Starting this Sunday, for the next few months, we want to explore the Church, Worship, the body of Christ and the various roles

Is it possible that we go to Church out of tradition and our upbringing but we've never understood what the Church is nor questioned why it is we go and what it is that we should be looking for or getting out of Church?

**The scriptures call for us to come together.**

#### HEBREWS 10:

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.



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26. For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27. But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

God is calling us to draw near with a full assurance of our faith. He has sprinkled our heart and purified it from evil. He has washed away our sins and made us a new creature. You can and should have full assurance of your faith. God has given us a promise and we can rely on it because he that promised it is faithful.

We are to continue in the faith and in the assembly together, so much the more, as we see the day approaching.

God sounds a warning, that if we willfully continue in sin after we receive the truth, we are headed for a train wreck. It points to a fearful and dreadful in for those who live and die in their sins.

### **Are you an owner or a renter in the kingdom of God**

**Have you ever driven through a neighborhood where there are a lot of investment property where people rent.**

Do you see how people take care of the property? I've observed that some allow it to run down. Many times there is a lack of pride. They have no stake. So what if we knock a whole in the wall? What if there are missing shingles? So what if the door is coming off the hinges? What if the paint is chipping? What if there are boards missing from the fence? What if the windows are cracked or broken? What if the grass is overgrown and the gutters are missing? What if the floor is creaking and starting to fall through in places or if the ceiling is beginning to fall in? For many, the attitude is, we don't care, it is not ours.....

There is a reason that in America and in most countries, they require a deposit of 1 to 2 months before they allow you to rent an apartment.

It is their way of making the renters takes ownership of some sort in the property.

It seems it is even worst with public housing and section 8 homes. Tenants have no ownership stake and it seems to reflect in the condition of the property.

**On the other hand, have you driven through a neighborhood where people own their property?**

Many yards are neat and manicured. You may observe various home improvement projects in progress.

You can see signs of recent paint or repair jobs. Yes, there are some that don't take care of their property, but you tend to see the pride of ownership

They have a stake and pride in something they own.

**Renter's Type of Mentality in Church**

- This is more like an affair than a marriage
- I'm here because I need something



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- I'm here to be served
- As soon as that need is met, I'm gone...until--I need something again and I'll be back
- I don't have an investment stake in the body
- I'm here to be feed and as long as feel I'm being feed I'll be here and if not, I'll go where I think they will feed me
- This is all about me and what I want
- I'm not really concerned about what goes on here
- The condition of the church (physical and spiritual) does not bother me

### **Ownership Mentality in Church**

- I'm committed to the cause of Christ and I'm here for the duration, like a marriage
- I'm here to learn and grow
- I'm here to work and contribute
- I'll be here whether I feel like it or not
- I have an investment stake in the kingdom of God
- The condition of the church (physical and spiritual) hurts me, I take it personal because I'm apart of this kingdom

### **Let's look at the GIFTS (Tools) that God gave to the church:**

**Apostle / Greek G649; Apostolos /ap-os'-tol-os /** a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders

**Prophet / Greek G4396; Prophetes / prof-ay'-tace /** 1. in Greek writings, an interpreter of oracles or of other hidden things; 2. One who, moved by the Spirit of God and hence his organ or spokesman, solemnly declares to men what he has received by inspiration, especially concerning future events, and in particular such as relate to the cause and kingdom of God and to human salvation 2. In the religious assemblies of the Christians, they were moved by the Holy Spirit to speak, having power to instruct, comfort, encourage, rebuke, convict, and stimulate, their hearers

**Evangelist / G2099 / Euaggelistes / yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace /** 1. A bringer of good tidings, an evangelist. 2. The name given to the NT heralds of salvation through Christ who are not apostles.

**Pastor / G4166 / Poimen / poy-mane' /** 1. A herdsman, esp. a shepherd 2. In the parable, he to whose care and control others have committed themselves, and whose precepts they follow.

The tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were:

- to watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep
- to defend the sheep from attackers
- to heal the wounded and sick sheep
- to find and save lost or trapped sheep
- to love them, sharing their lives and also earning their trust



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**Teacher / G1320 / Didaskalos / did-as'-kal-os** / 1. A teacher 2. In the NT one who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man. 3. Of those who in the religious assemblies of the Christians, undertook the work of teaching, with the special assistance of the Holy Spirit

### **Why did he give us these gifts?**

- For the **perfecting** of the Saints
- For the **work** of the ministry
- For the **edifying** of the body of Christ
- Till we come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God

**Perfecting / G2677 / Katartismos / Kat-ar-tis-mos'** / 1. Complete furnishing, equipping  
**Work / G2041 / Ergon / er'-gon** / 1. Business, employment, that which any one is occupied 2. An act, deed, thing done

**Edifying / G3619 / Oikodome / oy-kod-om-ay'** / 1. (the act of) building, building up 2. Metaph. Edifying, edification 3. The act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness. 4. A building (i.e. the thing built, edifice)

### **Now, let try to understand what Church is really about:**

The church is part of your education and indoctrination process into the kingdom of God

#### **ST MATTHEW 28:**

18. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
19. Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;
20. **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you;** and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

God expects the church to be committed to teaching believers everything that he has commanded them.

#### **1 PETER 2:**

1. Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking,
2. **As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby;**
3. If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

We cannot do the work of the ministry if we are not educated in the things of God.

#### **2 TIMOTHY 2:**

15. **Study to shew thyself approved unto God,** a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.



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16. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.
17. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of who is Hymenaeus and Philetus;
18. Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.
19. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.
20. But in a great house there are not only vessels of god and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonor.
21. **If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel of honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

God wants the Christian to commit to the study of God's word. To be a workman for God, we must be a student of the bible. We must be able to rightly divide the word of truth. If we do these things, we will be ready for the master's use.

God is looking for something out of you. God wants something out of you. He is looking for a sold out believer. He's looking for someone who lays down his life for the kingdom. He's looking for someone who gives up everything to follow him. He wants someone convicted of the things of God.

#### **HEBREWS 11:**

1. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Faith / G4102 / Pistis / pis'-tis /** 1. **Conviction** of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it.

- a. **Relating to God** 1. The **conviction** that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ.
- b. **Relating to Christ** 1. A strong and welcome **conviction** or belief that Jesus is the Messaiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God.

### **Church is not about feelings and emotions, it is about Knowledge**

#### **GENESIS 2:**

9. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for good; the tree of life also is in the midst of the garden, and the **tree of knowledge of good and evil.**
17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

#### **2 CHROINCLES 1:**

8. And Solomn said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead.



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9. Now, O Lord God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.
10. **Give me now wisdom and knowledge**, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?
11. And God said to Solomon, **Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast thou asked long life: but hast asked wisdom and knowledge** for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:
12. **Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee;** and **I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour**, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

When we seek God first, and his wisdom and knowledge, he adds everything else that we need. He supplies our every need.

#### ISAIAH 28:

9. Whom shall he **teach knowledge**? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breast.
10. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

#### JEREMIAH 3:

15. **And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.**
16. And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it: neither shall that be done any more.
17. At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem; neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

God wants you to be feed and filled with the knowledge of him.

#### HOSEA 4:

6. My people are **destroyed for lack of knowledge**: because thou hast **rejected knowledge**, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

#### 2 PETER 1:

4. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
5. And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue **knowledge**;
6. And to **knowledge** temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;



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7. And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.
8. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be **barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
9. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.
10. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall;
11. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
12. Wherefore I will not be negligent to **put you always in remembrance of these things**, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.
13. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, **to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;**

God wants us to grow in knowledge.