

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH, GOD’S MASTERPIECE

### A. WHY should we should study this topic regarding the Universal Church?

1. The Universal Church and local churches are the subject matter of the book of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament Epistles. (Ephesians 2:8-16; 3:1-6; 5:27)
  
2. The Universal Church and the local church encompass practically \_\_\_\_\_ of your Christian life.
  
3. There are two imbalances to avoid...
  - a. A \_\_\_\_\_ Christian who is not \_\_\_\_\_ to any local church, nor does he/she submit to any spiritual leadership.
  
  - b. A Christian who \_\_\_\_\_ apart from some gathering organization.

\* What does the Lord Jesus Christ think of the Church? (Acts 20:28)

### B. The MEANING, PREDICTION, and FOUNDATION of the Universal Church (Matt. 16:13-18)

1. The *meaning* of the word “*church*” is a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ of people regardless of its nature.
  
2. The *builder* of the Church is \_\_\_\_\_... “*I will build My Church*”

3. The *beginning* of the Church would be \_\_\_\_\_... “*I will build*”

\* What false teaching does this destroy?

4. The *owner* of the Church is \_\_\_\_\_... “*I will build My Church*”

5. The *foundation* of the Church is the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

\* Who is not the rock in this passage?

\* What or Who is the Rock?

6. The *durability* of the Church is seen by the fact that “*the gates of \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ against it.*”

\* Is Christ referring to local churches or the Universal Church? (Matt. 16:18)

\* How can you personally apply this truth today in your own life?