

God Is Always Aware

S#1.

A. Welcome to the celebration. This is the Day of Pentecost.

S#2.

1. Today we celebrate the birth of the church or the anniversary of its founding.
2. Today is the feast of weeks. (*After Barley harvest, but before wheat harvest*)
 - a. By the Jews it is called Shavuot/h.
 - b. In the N.T. it is referred to as the Day of Pentecost.
 - c. It is called Pentecost because it is 50 days after the Passover Feast.
3. Pentecost (*The Feast of Weeks*) was one of the three annual "Holy Convocations" S#3.
 - a. **Deut. 16: 16** – Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed.
17 "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.
 - b. These required offerings were in addition to their regular tithing. (*Jews 35%*)

B. Various religious groups teach a variety of things about the origin of the church.

1. A few trace it back to Abraham.
2. Some trace it back to John the baptizer.
3. Others mark its beginning with the beginning of the ministry of Jesus.

C. This lesson will discuss the true beginning and mission of the church.

I. The church was in the mind of Christ before He created the world.

S#4.

A. Jesus is God and as such HE created the earth and all things.

S#5.

1. **Col. 1: 16** – For by Him (Jesus) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
2. **John 1: 1** – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and S#6.
 the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (**Rom. 11:36, I Cor. 8:6, Heb. 1:2**)

B. God had a plan to save man from the creation of the world.

S#7.

1. **Matt. 25: 34** – Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

2. Though the plan of God was prepared and ready, He did not reveal it.

Matt. 13: 35 – This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

S#8.

" I will open My mouth in parables;

I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world."

C. The church was the way that God chose to return us to sinlessness.

1. The role that Jesus would play in redemption was foreknown before creation.

I Pet. 1: 20 – For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world,

S#9.

but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

21 who through Him are believers in God, ...

2. The church was foreknown by God before He created the world.

Eph. 1: 3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who

S#10.

has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places

in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the

world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

D. Notice that salvation is ONLY “in Him”, i.e., “in Christ.”

1. **II Tim. 2:10** – For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who

S#11.

are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which

is IN Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

2. **Acts 4:12** – And there is salvation IN no one else; for there is no other

name under heaven that has been given among men by

which we must be saved."

II. Thus, God's hidden plan of salvation was brought to fruition on the first Pentecost after the ascension of Jesus.

S#12.

A. While Jesus was preaching, the church had NOT yet been established.

S#13.

1. Jesus said He would build His church in the future.

a. **Matt. 16:18** – I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock

I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

b. The church of Christ, of God had not yet been established.

c. **Matt 14** ... John the baptizer was already dead so he could not have established it.

2. It's not until the book of Acts that the church is specifically spoken of in the present.

Acts 5: 11 – And great fear came over the whole church, and

over all who heard of these things.

3. Thus, Somewhere between Matthew 16 and Acts 5 the church was established.

a. That happened on the first day of Pentecost after the ascension of Jesus.

b. This event is the account of Acts 2.

B. After His resurrection Jesus spent time teaching His disciples.**S#14.**

1. **Acts 1: 3** – To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.
2. Jesus made sure His Apostles understood they were to establish the church.

C. While he was teaching His disciples about the church, He ascended.**S#15.**

1. They still did not understand the true spiritual nature of the kingdom.
Acts 1: 6 – So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"
2. They were in Bethany learning of the coming Spirit when Jesus began to rise.
Acts 1:9 – And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

S#16.**D. The events of chapter two (2) record the actual events of the birth of the church.**

1. The disciples were in Jerusalem because Jesus had instructed them to be there.
 - a. **Acts 1: 4** – Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; (**John 14: 26, 16: 5-15**)
 - b. They were in Bethany / Mt. of Olives which is less than 2 miles.
2. There was a large crowd of Jews congregated in Jerusalem.
 - a. It was the day of the Feast of Weeks ... Pentecost.
 - b. **Deut. 16:16** ... All Jewish men were required to assemble in Jerusalem.
 - c. This explains why 17 languages were represented.

E. In response to Peter's preaching many believed and were baptized.

1. All those who were baptized were saved and added to the assembly.
Acts 2:47 – praising God and having favor with all the people.
And the Lord was adding to their number day by day
2. This was the coming to fruition of God's eternal plan.

III. God's foreknowledge of this event has far-reaching implications.**S#17.****S#18.****A. The fact that God is aware of all things is an established biblical principle.**

1. **Psa. 139: 3-4** – You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all.
2. Things can disappoint God, but nothing surprises God.

B. As God knew about the cross and the church He has known all world events.

1. In the book of the Revelation He foretold of the destruction of the **Roman Empire**.
2. God foreknew about the rise of the **Ottoman Empire** and the slaughter of Christians
3. He foreknew about the **Bubonic Plague** in Middle Ages that killed 1/3 of mankind.
4. God foreknew **World War I** which killed 16 to 37 million people.
5. He foreknew **World War II** in which 70 to 85 million died ... incl. **6 million Jews**
6. God foreknew the **1918 flu pandemic** which killed between 25 and 50 million folks
7. He foreknew the **1957 flu pandemic** which killed 1 to 2 million people.
8. He foreknew the **1968 Hong Cong flu** pandemic - between 1 and 4 million deaths.
9. Needless to say He foreknew this **Wuhan Flu virus pandemic** 366,200 deaths so far

C. Why did God allow these terrible events ? (Rom. 8: 28 ... work to good) S#19.

1. It is not for man to seek to know the mind of God or to judge His motives. **Deut 28:28**
2. We know the character of God, (*love*) but He does not reveal all His plans.
3. God is the giver of all life so He has the divine right to take it back.

D. All human suffering is the result of sin.**S#20.**

1. The wages of sin is death.
Rom. 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2. God is aware of every sin every person has ever committed.
 - a. **Num. 32: 23** – But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.
 - b. **Heb. 4:12** – For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

S#21.**S#22.****E. If you have sin separating you from God, now is the time to eliminate it.**

1. If you are a Christian all you have to do is repent and pray ... **Acts 8**.
2. If you are not a Christian there is no way for you to be forgiven.
II Tim. 2:10 – For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.
3. Jesus will receive you IF you will turn from the world and surrender to Him.
4. Bury the old man of sin in a watery grave and be raised a new creature.

S#23.