

The Mission of the True Church

Listed Scriptures

Amos 9:11; Acts 1:8; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Eph 5:26-27

Lesson Aim

- 1) To realize the mission of the True Church and to make disciples of all the nations
- 2) To recognize our gifts and use them to spread the gospel

Memory Verse

"Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting." (Ps 126:5)

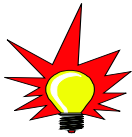
Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Psalms 46-50

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



It is easy for us to look to the ministers and pastors of the church to spread the gospel of peace and joy. After all, it is their job. But in fact, Jesus Christ commanded all His disciples to preach the truth. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15). Everyone of us has the responsibility to share the good news. That is why it is important for us to know the mission of the True Church. Only when we live every day with the Lord Jesus' commission in mind, can we truly live Christ-like lives. In this lesson, we will look at the four great missions of the church: to revive the apostolic church, to correct wrong beliefs, to warn the unbelievers and to sanctify the church.



Before the class, collect the pieces to a small puzzle (less than 50 pieces). Any kind of puzzle will do. Depending on the number of students, divide the puzzle pieces so that each student has an equal (or similar) number of pieces. Give them about 10 minutes to see if they can put the puzzle together. However, each of them must use only the pieces they are given (they can not trade it or give it to someone else). When they have completed the puzzle, explain that although each of them only had a small part of the puzzle, each of them were equally important in putting it together because without even one of the pieces, the puzzle would be incomplete. In today's lesson, we will learn about the the missions of the True Church and the important role that each of us plays in carrying out the missions. (If time does not permit, you may wish to save this activity for the Life Application section or ask the students to continue it after the Bible Study section.)



Part 1

To Revive the Apostolic Church

A. The Spiritual Decline of the Apostolic Church

About 20 to 30 years after the ascension of Jesus Christ, some members began to desert the church that was established with the power of the Holy Spirit for a different gospel, a distorted gospel of Christ (Gal 1:6-9, 2 Cor 11:4). Even Jude had to warn the saints to contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3). Also in the book of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, Apostle John's messages to the seven churches tell us that the Apostolic churches were degenerating. Therefore the spiritual decline of the Church caused the promised Holy Spirit to gradually depart from it.



B. The Revival of the Apostolic Church

The prophecy of Amos says, "In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old" (Amos 9:11). The booth of David typifies the church of Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus, who is the descendant of David, established His Church with His Holy Spirit after His ascension. That Church did fall under spiritual decline and false doctrines, thus causing the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit. According to history, the Holy Spirit stopped descending upon the church after the third century because the Apostolic Church deviated from the truth. But in accordance to God's grace, the promised Holy Spirit will once again be showered down to revive His Church at the end time just like the raising up of the fallen booth of David. Therefore, we have the mission to rebuild the early Apostolic church.



C. The Mission to Revive the Apostolic Church

The downfall and restoration of the temple in the Old Testament prefigures the degeneration and the revival of the Church in the New Testament. When Zerubbabel led the people to rebuild the altar of the God of Israel, they set up the altar on its foundation (Ezra 3:3, 8). This prefigures that the True Church of the end times will revive the Apostolic church as in the days of old. This Church must have the Truth, the Holy Spirit and signs and wonders showing the abidance of God. All this confirms the word that is being preached can lead men from sin to eternal life.



Part 2

To Correct Wrong Beliefs

A. To Correct the Errors of Other Denominations

Our holy worker, Paul Wei, began the ministry with the intention of correcting the erroneous faith of other denominations and named our church "Worldwide Reformation True Jesus Church". Another worker, Ling Shung Chang, also published "Worldwide Reformation Times" in an attempt to contend earnestly for the faith. This was the mission of our early church. Although many devout Christians sacrifice and suffer for our Lord today, their beliefs are based on unsound teachings. It is our duty to pass on the Truth to all churches and pray that the Holy Spirit will move them to understand and accept the gospel of salvation.

B. The Prophet Elijah's Work Typifies the True Church

King Ahab married Jezebel and followed her to serve Baal. Because he forsook the commandments of the Lord, there was drought in the land for three and a half years. The prophet Elijah challenged and put 450 of Baal's prophets to death on Mount Carmel and turned the hearts of the Israelites toward the True God. Through Elijah's prayers of faith, rain again descended on the land (1 Kg 16:29-33, 18:17-45). Similarly, the apostolic church was influenced by secular trends and deviated from the truth. Thus God withheld His Holy Spirit, the early rain, from the early church. It was not until the early 20th century that God again sent down His Holy Spirit, the latter rain, and established True Jesus Church. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the true church preached the full gospel of salvation, rectified many misconceptions and false doctrines, and brought many followers of Christ onto the right path of salvation. Just like the prophet Elijah's work, the duty of the true church is to restore the heart of the Heavenly Father to His children and the hearts of the children to their Heavenly Father as prophesied by the prophet Malachi (Mal 4:5-6).

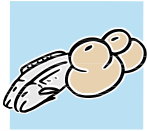
C. Many Doctrines Need Rectifying

There are some concepts taught by many churches which need rectifying:

- a. Most churches preach that there is no correlation between water baptism and salvation. It is considered only a procedure for joining a church and not for the remission of sins, thus it has no connection to rebirth. As for the mode of baptism, most churches baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Members are baptized either with sprinkling of water or by full immersion, facing upward. According to the teachings of the Bible, we believe that water baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 22:16). Baptism must be in the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 2:38, 8:16, 10:48) and it must be in the likeness of the Lord's death with head bowed (Rom 6:3-8; Jn 19:30). Baptism must be by full immersion (Mk 1:9-10; Acts 8:36-39; Jn 3:23). Infants can also be baptized (Acts 16:15, 33; Ps 51:5).
- b. Most churches regard foot washing as a lesson of humility, a Jewish custom, and not a sacrament. According to John 13:8, to refuse foot washing is to have no part with the Lord Jesus. It also has the significance of Christian love, sanctification (Jn 13:34-35), humility and forgiveness.
- c. There are many different concepts regarding the Holy Communion:

- i. Transubstantiation (Catholics): After giving thanks, the bread and grape wine transform materially into the physical body and blood of the Lord Jesus.
- ii. Consubstantiation (Lutheran Church): The physical body and blood coexist with the bread and the grape wine.
- iii. Symbolism (Zwingli/Reformed Church): The bread and cup remain the same after giving thanks. They only symbolize the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus could not have given His flesh and blood to His disciples to eat and drink since He was not yet crucified when He gave thanks for the bread and cup.
- iv. Most churches use many pieces of leavened bread or biscuits, one for each person during Holy Communion. They also use fermented wine to remember the Lord's death in a symbolic way. We believe that after the blessings, through the Holy Spirit, the unleavened bread and the cup of grape juice become the spiritual body and the spiritual blood of the Lord Jesus. Partaking of the Holy Communion is to have eternal life; we will be raised up on the last day (Jn 6:53-54).

- d. Most churches feel that all believers have the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongue is only one of the gifts of the Spirit. According to the book of Acts, speaking in tongue is the sign that a person has received the Holy Spirit (Act 10:44-48). Although not every believer can preach in tongues in order to edify the church, everyone who has received the Holy Spirit speaks in tongue.
- e. Most churches do not observe the Sabbath but attend church on Sundays, which is the resurrected day of Christ, because they believe that Sabbath observance is a commandment imposed only on the Old Testament Jews. But we know that both the Lord Jesus and apostle Paul kept the Sabbath (Lk 4:16; Acts 17:1-2). The Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it (Mt 5:17-20). The Sabbath of the New Testament should still be observed under grace (Mt 12:1-8; Mk 2:27; Rom 6:14).
- f. We do not celebrate Christmas, Easter and other festivities like other churches. Instead, we hold the sacrament of the Holy Communion to remember the Lord's death (1 Cor 11:26-27). We have the mission to rebuild the early apostolic church.



Part 3

To Warn Unbelievers

A. To Preach the Gospel to All Creation

Jesus Christ said to the disciples, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The Lord Jesus also said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come" (Mt 24:14). Therefore, the commission of the Church, which was established by the Holy Spirit, is to testify for the Savior, even to the ends of the earth.

B. To Admonish the Sinful City

God sent prophets to warn the city of Babylon to flee from destruction (Jer 51:6-9; Isa 52:11). In the book of Revelation, the angel of the Lord forewarned the people to get out of Babylon so that they will not be destroyed with it (Rev 18:1-5). We have the duty like the prophets and the angel to lead the believers to sanctify themselves from the sinful world, to seek after holiness and to serve the Lord.

C. To Remind Others That the End Is Near

"The End is coming. Men will be lovers of self, boastful, disobedient, unholy, and most sinful. Disaster will come upon disaster, behold it is coming" (2 Tim 3:1-5; Ezek 7:5-9, 25-27). The Lord Jesus is coming to judge all people (Jas 5:9; Mt 24:32-34), and yet the world is drunk with worldly pleasures and sinful acts. It is our obligation to preach to the world that the end is near.



Part 4

To Sanctify the True Church

A. Noah Typifies the True Church

During Noah's time, the wickedness of man was great on earth and the thoughts of his heart was evil. God decided to blot out man from the face of the earth. Noah did everything God had commanded him and built an ark according to God's measurements. Therefore, Noah and his family were saved from the flood (Gen 6 & 7). Today, our world is immoral, violent and more corrupt than during Noah's time. God has also commanded His chosen ones to preach the gospel of salvation and to build His Church (of the end times) according to God's instructions and to be prepared for the second coming of Christ (Rev 19:7, 21:2).

B. To Build the Perfect Church of the End Times

The goal of our Lord's second coming is to present Himself the bride in all her glory - holy and blameless, the perfect Church. Since the emergence of Catholicism, many false doctrines have invaded and influenced Christianity. Even though Martin Luther made religious reformations, the "yeast" still did its work. Therefore, just like the rebuilding of the holy temple in the Old Testament, the True Church in the New Testament needs to be rebuilt. The down pouring of the Holy Spirit, the latter rain, is to help restore and sanctify the perfect Church in order to be ready for the Lord's second coming (Eph 5:26-27).

C. To Be Complete in Christ

Without sanctification, no one can see the Lord (Heb 12:14). A church needs to proclaim the Lord Jesus, admonish and teach every person with all wisdom to observe Christ's commands and imitate Him so that we may present ourselves complete in Christ (Col 1:28; Mt 28:20; 1 Cor 4:16). The Church is to be built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus being the corner stone (Eph 2:20). Believers are sealed unto Him with the promised Holy Spirit and blessed with various spiritual gifts to do His perfect will. Christians are to love one another, be united as one in the Truth, and live a life holy and acceptable unto God (Eph 1:13-14; Heb 2:4; Jn 17:11, 17, 21-23).

Teaching Tips

The Bible Study section covers four great missions of the true church. When studied in depth, there are many more specific missions within each mission that can be discussed. If time permits, brainstorm with the students the things that the church can do to carry out each of the missions as they are studied. That way, the Bible study will not just simply be a presentation of the mission. For example, what can the church do to rectify the wrong beliefs of other denominations? Or how can we build the church today so that it can become the perfect Bride, awaiting the return of Christ? Through this kind of discussion, the missions will be more applicable to the students.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



- 1 What are the four great missions of the true church?
- 2 What caused the early church to gradually lose the abidance of the Holy Spirit?
- 3 List two doctrines that are being incorrectly preached today that need rectifying. Do you have enough biblical knowledge to preach to other people the truth regarding these doctrines?
- 4 How urgent do you feel it is to warn other people of the coming of the judgment day? On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the most urgent), explain your answer.
- 5 What does it mean to you to sanctify the church? If you are not sure, here are some references to help you: Ephesians 4:11-16; Revelation 19:7-8 and 21:1-27.
- 6 What can you do specifically to
 - a. revive the apostolic church?
 - b. correct the wrong beliefs?
 - c. warn the unbelievers?
 - d. sanctify the church?

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N



Our Mission

When we tried to put the puzzle pieces together earlier (see Warm-Up section), each piece, no matter how small, was important. Similarly, although each of the missions of the true church seem overwhelming and hard to achieve on our own, when every believer puts in their effort, the pieces will come together. The problem is that usually we depend on other people to do the work because we think we are not knowledgeable enough or talented enough. After all, the pastor is the one being paid to preach and minister, and there are many adults in the church who are more experienced. But the fact is that doing any kind of work for God is our duty and responsibility, not just something we want to do when we feel capable of doing it. In 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, it describes very clearly that we are all “ministers” because we have all been given gifts to use. In Paul’s letters, he lists some of the gifts: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing powers, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation, administration, leadership, teaching and miracles. As we read through the list, most of us automatically think, “There is no way I am going to prophesize or perform miracles.” But saying that we don’t have any of these gifts doesn’t mean we are being humble. Actually, it’s telling God that what He says isn’t true, that we don’t have any of the gifts He says He has given us. It’s possible that we are in the process of developing those talents or we just keep pushing it aside because we feel inadequate, lazy or just too young.

Questions to think about:

1. What might some of your spiritual gifts be? If you don’t know, how can you find out?
2. What if you don’t like the gifts that you have or if it seems like everyone else has better ones?
3. If you could get more involved in the Junior 2 class or youth ministry, what would you change or add?

The church is always saying that the youth or the children are the future. Although that is true, it is more accurate to say that the children are the church’s present. Otherwise, we will always put off serving God because we think we are just too

young or inexperienced. Think about the things that you can do today for the church. More importantly, think about how to motivate yourself so that you don't have to wait for someone else to invite you to get involved. That is the true spirit of serving God.

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



In order to be able to carry out the mission of the church, there are many things we need to do to prepare ourselves. It is not just simply jumping in and serving God whenever or wherever. Since it is our responsibility, we need to take our role seriously. We need to be diligent in Bible reading, church attendance and unceasing prayer. We need to seek after the filling of the Holy Spirit, and grow in spiritual knowledge and power so that we have spiritual maturity. That way, we can be the salt and the light of the world and be equipped to preach the gospel to fulfill God's plan of salvation.

Lesson 1 1

The History of the True Jesus Church (USA)

Listed Scriptures

not applicable to this lesson

Lesson Aim

- 1) To learn about the organization of the True Jesus Church in the United States as well as the histories of the local churches
- 2) To recognize the holy work we can be a part of locally and globally to help spread God's message of salvation

Memory Verse

"...the whole building, being joined together, grows into the holy temple in the Lord." (Eph 2:21)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Psalms 51-55

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



The True Jesus Church in the United States was first established in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1930. A doctor named Ai-Chen Li of Honolulu believed and received baptism in the True Jesus Church while working in Shanghai, China. After her baptism, sister Li mailed a copy of the "Holy Spirit Times" back to her hometown in Hawaii. The publication caused some of this sister's friends and relatives to become interested in the Holy Spirit and the truth. As a result, one of her friends, Mrs. Ho, also traveled to Shanghai by boat to receive baptism. After this, sister Li realized the importance of saving souls. She quit her medical practice and returned to Honolulu in May of 1930. Her desire to preach the gospel led many to come and believe and the True Jesus Church was thus established in Hawaii. However, spiritual activities in the continental United States remained dormant until Dn. John Wu and Dns. Anna Goo Kim Yue attended the First World Delegates Conference in Taiwan in 1967. Inspired by the conference, Dn. Wu and Dns. Anna gathered