

SC1: JOHN 4:23-24 STRONG IN GOD'S PRESENCE BY GOD'S TRUTH

WHAT IS THE CHURCH? R we? ...A diverse people united in faith around the one true God and His Son, Jesus Christ. An eternal people, fully functioning, Christ radiating, spiritual gift using, culture transforming, built up, grown up, unified up, bound up in love as a force of gospel truth and love in God's Almighty hand.

WHY DOES THE CHURCH NEED TO BE STRONG? think about that? **THAT'S WHY** God's church is taking a beating right now... google - the church is losing its way, why the church is on the decline, the decline of Christianity in America, why the church is losing it's influence – **BEHIND THE BEATING IS THE DEVIL – WE HAVE AN ENEMY** Christians are falling prey to the devil's playbook instead of living by **THE BOOK**. **WE HAVE BEEN WRONG ON WHAT MAKES A CHURCH STRONG** The church is often weak in what it should be strong in and strong in what it should be weak in.

STRENGTH IN THE RIGHT THINGS – AS CHURCH/CHRISTIANS – LIVING STONES
Experiencing God's Presence / Grounded in Biblical Truth / Purpose-Filled Missional Living / Rooted in Prayer / Fearlessly Using Our Spiritual Gifts / Following Spirit-Led Leadership / Giving with Generosity / Having Hearts of Extreme Unity / Never Forsaking Transparency

- Undeniable Biblical Interaction between God's presence His truth

John 4:23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

1 Timothy 3:15 That you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, **which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.**

flying buttress is **to help hold the heavy wall up by pushing from the outside**

As we are upheld by God's truth – we uphold God's truth in the world.

DIMENSION #1: GOD'S PRESENCE WITH AND WITHIN HIS PEOPLE

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT / CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD – not dead, distant, disconne
God is not traditions, feelings, history, artifacts, buildings, programs, philosophies, human constructs,

GOD IS ALWAYS REVEALING – BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BE WITH US

- Pursuing Adam, Selecting Noah, Initiating Abe and Sara, Meeting Isaac and Jacob, giving dreams to Joseph - **CHOOSING ISRAEL – PPL OF HIS PRESENCE**

Pillar of cloud, pillar of fire, Tabernacle/Temple: The presence of God among

- **CULMINATING IN THE CROSS – VEIL OF THE TEMPLE TORN IN TWO**

Jesus was forsaken by God so you could be united not just to God, but **with God.**

- **WORSHIPERS: Born Again by His Spirit / Spirit enables spiritual comm Father**

John 14:23 If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will **come to him and make our home with him.**

HIS PRESENCE IS MEANT TO BE EXPERIENCED IN COMMUNITY

Matthew 18:19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

God's after you He wants to be with you... – pimp, prostitute, parcel worker, business owner, blackjack dealer, gay or straight....

DIMENSION #2: GOD'S TRUTH GUIDES US INTO EXPERIENCING HIS PRESENCE

The purpose of truth is that it leads you to God so that you can be united to Him.

Cambridge Dictionary /ˌrev.əˈleɪ.ʃən/: the act of making something known that was secret, or a fact that is made known **BIBLE DOES**

God is not the Bible – HE IS REVEALED THRU

We don't worship the Bible. We worship the God who is revealed through the Bible.

The Bible reveals God and His works and guides us in our experience of Him.

- IT'S HIS STORY – HIS SPECIFIC ABOUT HIMSELF - **CONTAINS**
 - DESCRIPTION – The real history of God's interaction with humanity
 - DECLARATION – Proclaims his desire to draw ppl to himself
 - PRESCRIPTION – His exclusive instructions on how united with Trinity
- **JESUS IS THE DOOR** – Communion with Father living faith in the SON.. REL..
 - Contract with my wife that says we r married – **SHE HAS MY HEART**

God has given us disciplines / tools to experience Him individually corporately

Reading Teaching Preaching of Scriptures - Worship and Prayer - Fellowship and Community - Sacraments of Baptism and Communion - Stillness and Meditation - Miracles Healings - Spiritual Gifts - Service to God – Sharing Christ

DIMENSION #3: WHAT ARE HEARTS OUR SEEKING

It's more than doing those things – we can do this and not have any real communion with God, no experience of God.

- **MUST BE SEEKING GOD**

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart

- **PARABLE OF THE SOILS** – son of man hard, rocky, choked out, GOOD

James 1:21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

LIVE DEPENDENTLY – PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH!!!! GOD.....

Exodus 33:15 And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

Strong for us – strong for our families - Strong for our city – Las Vegas needs strong churches - Strong for the world...Strong for GOD'S GLORY