**THE UNIQUENESS OF THE CHURCH**

**Matthew 16:13 – 19**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The church, within the New Testament, is the possessor of a rather unique nature.

 A. In study of the church, [we] find a [fascinating] universe’s greatest institution.

2. It is in a category ALL by itself, unique and solitary.

 A. In our study, [we] want to consider some areas of uniqueness concerning the church.

**BODY:**

**1. BEING A DISPLAY OF THE WISDOM OF GOD**

 A. One needs only to casually READ the New Testament in order to clearly see this point.

 1. From the prophets, men of old knew something stupendous was coming (Mt 13:17).

 2. Yet, [we] see they were **NOT** exactly sure as to what it was to be.

 B. In further study, [we] easily see it took God’s Wisdom to ensure the church would

 become a reality (Mt 16:13 – 19).

 C. The church shows forth God’s Wisdom in bringing it into existence (Eph 3:10).

**2. IN REGARD TO ITS PURCHASE PRICE**

A. Study unveils the tremendous price paid for the church (Ac 20:28; 1 Pet 1:18, 19).

 B. Those composing the church, which are the saved (Ac 2:47), have been redeemed, **NOT**

 by silver and gold, **BUT** by the precious blood of Christ.

 1. Certainly, [we] can understand the uniqueness of the church by this.

 2. God saw the church to be so valuable, He sent His Son to this earth to redeem those

 who would be redeemed by the blood of His Son (Rev 5:9).

**3. DUE TO ITS MEMBERSHIP**

 A. Members of the church have a quality belonging to **NO** other organization.

 1. A saved group, enjoying the assurance their past sins being forgiven (Heb 8:12).

 2. One’s future sins will be forgiven, if one continue to walk in the light (1 Jn 1:7).

 B. In respect to membership, [we] must understand [we] can**NOT**, “join” the church.

 1. Instead, upon one’s conversion, one is automatically added to the church (Ac 2:47).

 A. When is one pronounced saved (Mk 16:16)?

 C. The church does **NOT** save, **BUT** it is composed of the saved.

 1. This must **NOT** be misconstrued.

 A. One can ONLY be saved by being a member of the ONLY church in the Bible.

 1. The reason for this? The saved constitute the church.

 D. Neither should one say, “once saved always saved” (1 Cor 10:12).

**4. DUE TO ITS NAMELESSNESS**

A. The New Testament church has **NO** proper name.

 1. It is called the household of faith (Gal 6:10); the family of God (Eph 3:15); the body

 (Eph 1:22, 23); the churches of Christ (Rom 1:16); **BUT**, it has **NO** proper name.

 B. To speak of the church as the “church of Christ” is proper to indicate ownership.

 1. **BUT**, to speak of it in the sense of a proper name, is incorrect.

**5. DUE TO ITS DESTINY**

 A. **NO** other institution known to man or revealed by God has the destiny as the church.

 1. **NO** other institution can survive the physical death of its membership.

 B. The church is so organized, her members enjoy membership and the fruit of their labors

 in heaven (Jn 14:1 – 4).