

## Where is the Gathering Going?

*(Why the church is the hope of the world)*  
by Dr. David Foster

"Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'  
Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I Will Build My Church, And The Gates Of Hades Will Not Overcome It.**'" (Mat 16:16 )

### What is the church like?

It is like a **bush**.

It is like a **building**.

"For we are God's fellow workers; **YOU ARE GOD'S FIELD, GOD'S BUILDING**. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. . . ." (1 Cor 3:9-17)

It is like a **body**.

". . . . God placed all things under his feet **AND APPOINTED HIM TO BE HEAD OVER EVERYTHING FOR THE CHURCH**, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." (Eph 1:18)

It is like a **bride**.

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. . . . Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" (Rev 19:7)

## Want God's best blessing?

Then **love** His church.

"And you husbands, show the same kind of love to your wives as Christ showed to the Church when he died for her, to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's Word; so that he could give her to himself as a **GLORIOUS CHURCH** without a single spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, being holy and without a single fault." (Eph 5:25-27)

Then **pray** for His church.

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST**, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Mat 9:36-38)

Then **provide** for His church.

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, . . . ." (1 Cor 16:1-2)

Then **protect** His church.

"If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless." (Jam 1:26)

Then **serve** His church.

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph 4:11-12)

Then **promote** His church.

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes **AND MAKE THEM COME IN**, so that my house will be full.'" (Luke 14:23)