



# **THE FUTURE TODAY!**

**Prophecy Meetings**

## **The Church Age!**

**Acts 2:1-4**

**Sermon given on November 13, 2022**



**Sunday Afternoon Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Church Age!

## *Acts 2:1-4*

### Opening Comments

- Welcome to the **FUTURE TODAY** prophecy meeting
  - Historians define periods of time using the term ‘age’
  - There was the paleolithic age – long time ago
  - The ‘Middle Ages’ were about 1300 to 1500
  - The ‘Space Age’ began the year I was born
  - Today we are living in the post-COVID-19 age
  - Turn to **Matthew 16**
  - Religion breaks history down into ages also
  - There isn’t enough time to describe them all to you
  - Our focus is the one we are living in – We refer to it as the Church Age
  - The word church occurs 110 times in the New Testament
  - The first occurrence is found in a fascinating conversation Jesus has with His disciples
  - **Matthew 16:13-17**
  - Jesus is the Christ – the Messiah – the Savior of the World
  - He is the Son of the living God – God in the flesh
  - Peter didn’t figure that out – God revealed it to him
  - Then Christ speaks of the church
  - **Matthew 16:18**
  - Elsewhere the Bible teaches that Jesus is the chief cornerstone of the church, and the apostles and prophets are the foundation and believers are the living stones
  - The church is comprised of all people who put their trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ
  - When did the church age begin?
  - Turn to **Acts 2**
  - Was it here when Jesus said He would build it?
  - Was it when Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the whole world?
  - Was it after the resurrection when Jesus appeared to the disciples
- John 20:21-22**

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

- The most common opinion is found here in **Acts 2**
- Jesus has ascended back to heaven and the disciples gather
- **Acts 2:1-4**
- Peter stands up in front of the crowd of thousands that gathers and preaches a Spirit-filled message that stirs the hearts of many
- **Acts 2:40-41**
- Jesus told us what the purpose of the church is **Matthew 28:18-20**  
And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.
- Notice the phrase, ‘the end of the age’
- Every age has a beginning and an end
- The church age will end when the church is no longer on the earth
- We don’t know when the end of the church will come **Matthew 24:36-37**

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. <sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

- But we know how it will end - Jesus will come and snatch everyone who believes in Him out of the world suddenly
- What should the church be doing while it waits for Jesus **Matthew 24:42; 44**

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming...

<sup>44</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- If you are a believer in the finished work of Jesus Christ – then you are the church – not a member of the church, not a part of the church – you are the church
- We are living in the church age
- And the signs are all around us that we may be close to the end of the church age
- So, we need to stay ready for Christ to come and get His church – you and me – and we need to be busy making disciples while we wait
- You are the church! Randy will now share!