

**A 3–D Approach to What We Believe:
Doctrine, Discernment, & Discipline
Perspectives, Priorities, & Prophecy:
God’s Plans & Purposes Are Perfect!**

—Romans 13:11–14 (with other supporting scripture)

The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

—from ACEFC's Statement of Faith

The FOCUS for Today's Study:

Where does the CHURCH fit in GOD'S _____
_____ ? What should be our _____
our _____ , & our _____ ?

Jesus said, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

—John 14:3

"Here's a lesson for us. No decision can be considered good if eternity proves it to be bad. To put it another way, no decision in this life can ever be good unless it is good for eternity. Only a being who knows the future and the past can prescribe what is best for us. We make judgments in time; only God can reveal the judgments of eternity."

— Erwin W. Lutzer

"Some prophetic words provide comfort and encouragement during ordeals. Others pierce our hearts and move us to action."

—David Jeremiah

"The greatest danger to the church today is not humanism, paganism, atheism or agnosticism. The greatest danger is not increasing hostility against our faith from the culture. Our greatest danger is apostasy on the inside, arising from false teachers- theological liberals who deny and distort biblical doctrine and lead others down the same path."

— Mark Hitchcock, *The Coming Apostasy*

—Romans 13:11–14

11 Do this, **knowing the time**, for it's already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; **for now our deliverance is coming** sooner than when we first believed.

12 The night is almost over, and **the day is near**. Therefore, let us **avoid the deeds of darkness** and **put on the armor of light**.

13 Let us **walk uprightly** as in the day, not in **carousing** and **drunkenness**, not in **sexual immorality** and **sensuality**, not in **strife** and **jealousy**.

14 **But instead, identify yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make **no provision for the lustful desires of the flesh**.

—1) Why is prophecy **IMPORTANT**? (13:11–12a)

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—2) How should prophecy **IMPACT** our lives? (13:12b–14)

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—3) What's INVOLVED? (3:12–14)

— with Christ

— our sinful lusts and desires

—PERSONAL APPLICATIONS & LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN:

—Truths that help us understand the importance of prophecy:

—1— Approximately of the Bible is prophecy

—2— 50% 50%

—3— Bible prophecy proves to us that God is

—4— Old Testament PROPHECY (PREDICTION) about the Messiah (Jesus was born to be the Savior/Lord!) has been fulfilled literally and exactly as Scripture predicted!

—5— Deuteronomy 29:29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law."

—Lessons & Applications:

—1} God wants us to be about His

PROVIDES:

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—2} Knowing God's prophetic plans inspires:

..... and that initiates

1 John 3:1–3 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has **this hope fixed on Him** purifies himself, just as He is pure.