

THE TRUE CHURCH

Adapted from a Family Talk by the Rt. Rev. Thomas L. Kline

Lessons: Psalm 84:1-4

What would you do if some one told you to build a church? How would you begin? What would you make the church out of and where would you build it?

These are important questions, because the Word tells us that right now the Lord is building a church on earth, and He wants each one of us to help Him.

Imagine what it would be like to make the most beautiful church building on earth. You could make the walls out of beautiful stones and the roof out of the finest woods. You could even put gold and all sorts of precious gems inside. But when you finished making this beautiful building, do you think you would have a church that the Lord would be happy with?

Is there anything more to a church than just a beautiful building?

Of course, we know that a church is far more than just a building. Your church would also need people to come to it. Without people, your church would just be a big empty building; it would really be no church at all.

Now suppose you went out and got hundreds of people to come to your church. Suppose you had many songs the people could sing, choirs that could make beautiful music and priests who could say wise things. Do you think you would then have a church that the Lord would be happy with?

Can you think of one more thing that you would need before the church could be called a *true church*? What is the one thing that really makes the Lord's church on earth? Of course, it is the Lord's Word. Without the Word, we would have no church at all.

It is not a big building that makes a church, nor is it many people, great choirs, or wise ministers. Only the Lord's Word makes a true church—and especially our love and understanding of His Word. Nothing else is more important than this. Unless we love the Lord when we come to church, all the most beautiful things inside that church are useless. Our love of the Lord Jesus Christ is the true church on earth.

Amen.