

Right now, thousands and
thousands of people are
looking for a church.

Reasons Some Are Looking

- Some have recently moved to a new area.
- Others have drifted, and would like to renew their “religious interest.”
- Still others have become unhappy with their “old church.”
- So, what are they looking for? What do they feel they need?

Answers

- Some are looking for a church like the one with which they were formerly affiliated, often for no other reason than tradition or custom. They don't want to change from what they're accustomed to.
- Some are looking for a church whose building is convenient to where they live, one within easy driving distance.

Answers

- Some are looking for a church whose members are very friendly, who make them feel welcome and wanted.
- Some are looking for a sense of belonging and importance—a church that will help bolster their self esteem.

Answers

- Some are looking for a big church, somewhere they can just blend in with the crowd—a church where their absence won't be conspicuous, and where they don't have to take an active role.
- Some are looking for a small church because they want to be close to all the members. “Smaller churches are more like family,” they say, and, “you can tell the members from the visitors.”

Answers

- Some are looking for a church engaged in a lot of “good works”—one committed to “social reform” and “community improvement.”
- Some are looking for a church that sponsors a lot of youth activities and family functions—suppers, games, sports teams, exercise programs, arts and crafts classes, etc.

What's Missing?

- Not a word about God, or about Jesus Christ.
- Not a word about the Bible, or the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Not a word about salvation, about the needs of the soul, about heaven and hell, or anything to do with eternity.

What's Missing?

- While likely not dismissed altogether, spiritual considerations do not seem to be uppermost in people's search for the "right church."
- Social considerations, convenience, tradition, entertainment, prestige in the community—these factors tend to play a larger role.

Church at Corinth

- This church was established on the teaching of Jesus Christ.
 - 1 Cor. 2:1–5.
- It was formed by people who responded to the teaching of Jesus Christ.
 - Acts 18:8.

Church at Corinth

- They were warned not to depart from the teaching of Jesus Christ in any way.
 - 1 Cor. 3:10–11; 2 Cor. 11:1–4.
 - This letter rebukes them for several departures.

Church at Corinth

- What they did collectively was carefully prescribed by Jesus Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:37, 34–35; 11:18–22, 34.
 - Same taught in other churches—1 Corinthians 4:17.

Church at Corinth

- The activities prescribed for them by Jesus Christ—these were all designed to build them up spiritually.
 - They taught the word of the Lord—1 Cor. 14:26.
 - Together, they prayed and sang to the Lord—1 Cor. 14:15.
 - They ate the Lord's supper—1 Cor. 11:17–34.
 - They gave of their means for the Lord's work—1 Cor. 16:1–2.

What to Look For

- Look for a church where you can be loyal to Jesus Christ, and all His teachings. Matthew 28:18–19.
- Look for a church, then, whose description, work, worship, and organization are all according to the teachings of Jesus Christ. In other words, look for one like the local churches in the New Testament.

What to Look For

- Look for a church whose mission agrees with that of Jesus Christ—to save lost souls.
- Look for a church that ministers to the spiritual needs of men—the very needs Jesus Christ alone can satisfy.
- Look for a church committed to giving men, not what they *think* they need, but what Jesus Christ *says* they need.