

All that we do should put God first. We are not to be preoccupied with gathering *things* or worldly possessions. Seek first the things of God and he will add *these things* unto us.

📖 2 Cor 8:5 says they first “gave their \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord”.

God wants us to commit time to Him by attending church faithfully, and by being involved in using our gifts and abilities to serve Him and others. We are His stewards of the time He has given us here on earth.

You can be a good steward of your time by committing to come to every church service. Hebrews 10:25 says We should not \_\_\_\_\_ the assembling of ourselves together. We should be at church every opportunity that is available. This includes Sunday Morning Bible Class, Sunday evening services, Wed Night, and special meetings.

### **STEWARDSHIP of our TREASURE**

God has blessed us with all that we have and He wants us to return a portion back to Him and His work. Our giving helps the church to pay bills, print Bibles and tracts, support missionaries and our Pastor so that others can hear the Gospel and be saved. Many families will be helped by your giving.

How much should we give ? That is up to you. Debts and commitments have a bearing on our ability to give. The more we can clear our debts the more we can give to God’s work. God will bless us for giving:

📖 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all \_\_\_\_\_ abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work

📖 Philippians 4:19 But my God shall \_\_\_\_\_ all your \_\_\_\_\_ according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Giving is a matter of being obedient and grateful to God. It shows that we believe all that we have was given to us by Him. It also requires faith to believe that God will supply all your needs if you faithfully give to His work.

The main thing is to not give grudgingly, but \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor 9:7). Start by giving faithfully each week and seek to increase it as you see God provide. Realize that “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth \_\_\_\_\_ shall reap also bountifully (2 Cor 9:6)

Make the commitment today to obey God and to join with other believers in the fellowship of Calvary Baptist Church.

Would you like to continue these Bible Studies? Download more at [www.calvarybaptistwindsor.com](http://www.calvarybaptistwindsor.com) visit us, or call us at 519-973-1515

## The Church and You

The first time the word church is mentioned in the Bible is in Matthew 16:18. In this verse, Jesus said

"...upon this rock \_\_\_\_\_ build \_\_\_\_\_ church..."

Jesus began to build his church by organizing twelve followers called Apostles. Peter was an Apostle who was instrumental in the organizing of the first church. Fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus, on the Day of Pentecost, Peter preached and 3000 people were saved. (Acts 2:38-41)

📖 Acts 2:41. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were \_\_\_\_\_ about three thousand souls.

These folks who were saved immediately joined together with the Church. They continued to organize and carry out Christ’s commands. Before Jesus returned to Heaven he gave the church some commands (Matt 28:19-20), they are:

1. To tell others how to be saved. **Salvation**
2. To baptize new converts **Baptism**
3. To teach Christians all that Jesus taught **Discipleship**

Just like these 3000 folks that were saved on the day of Pentecost, God expects each of us who are saved to join a local church. There are some very practical reasons for this command:

### **ORGANIZATION**

📖 Romans 12:4-5 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, \_\_\_\_\_, are \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, and every one members one of another.

God refers to his people as a body, and a family. A body is visible and has many members all joined together for His purpose. The church as an organization needs to identify its leaders and workers to effectively accomplish the task God has given us.

## PROTECTION

📖 Hebrews 13:17 The Pastor watches over us and must give an \_\_\_\_\_ for us to God. He “oversees” and “Shepherds” the church. He is there to help with problems, counseling, death, and illness. He helps to teach us the word of God, protect us from false doctrine, pray for us, and prepare us to serve the Lord.

## OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

📖 Romans 12:6 “Having then \_\_\_\_\_ differing according to the grace that is given to us...”

Each one of us has been given a special gift or ability. No one can do everything and everyone can do something! The church can only be strong when everyone is using their gift properly. There are many opportunities for you to be involved. Serving will help you grow spiritually.

## COMMITMENT TO GOD’S INSTITUTION

There are two requirements to become a member of the church:

📖 Acts 2:38 says \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_.

📖 Acts 2:41 says they that gladly \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_: and the same day there were **added unto them** about three thousand souls.

So according to these verses, before these folks were added unto the church, they first were **saved** and **baptized**. These are the requirements for church membership.

Like these new church members in Acts 2:42, we should desire to \_\_\_\_\_ steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, and fellowship, and breaking of bread, and prayers.

## DOCTRINE

The Church is the pillar and ground of the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim 3:15.) It is where we learn the truth about God, Doctrine, Morality, and Heaven, as well as our responsibility and instructions for life. Preaching, teaching, and Bible studies are methods of instruction in Doctrine.

Calvary is an Independent Baptist Church. “Independent because we have no hierarchy or denomination controlling what we do or teach. We are “Baptist” because historically (since the time of Christ), there have always been believers that followed the Bible as their only authority (not the Pope or a denomination)

even to the point of death. Our doctrine best reflects the doctrine of these historic Christians who held firm to the Bible as their final authority.

**FELLOWSHIP:** Fellowship includes Bible studies, preaching, singing, and other activities. It is also a means of encouraging others during life’s difficulties. We need activities that are wholesome and not worldly. The church should become the center of our fellowship to avoid worldly temptations.

**BREAKING OF BREAD:** The Lords Supper. Some call this “communion”. We choose to do this on a monthly basis rather than weekly. It is a special and sacred time of fellowship as we remember the Lords death until He returns.

📖 1 Corinthians 11:28 says that communion is a time to E \_\_\_\_\_ yourself.

📖 1 Corinthians 11:31 says that communion is a time to J \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.

Together church members privately examine and judge their own lives, confessing their sin to God and remembering the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us.

**PRAYER:** Luke 19:46 “My house is a house of \_\_\_\_\_”. God said His house is a place of prayer where we can present our needs to each other and pray for each other. The more Godly people we have praying for us the better off we will be.

📖 Matthew 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if \_\_\_\_\_ of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall \_\_\_\_\_, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

**STEWARDSHIP:** God said in 2 Corinthians 4:2 that it is required that stewards be found \_\_\_\_\_. A steward is one who is in charge of another’s goods. God has given us life, family, food, clothing, and many other blessings. We are His stewards of those things. We should use them wisely for His good.

### **STEWARDSHIP of our TIME:**

God is the one who gives us “time”. Every day and every breath is a gift from God. We should be faithful to use some of our time in service to God.

Look at the priorities that God intends for us to have:

📖 Matthew 6:33 But seek ye \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these \_\_\_\_\_ shall be added unto you.