

- I. A RIGHT VIEW OF GOD**
- II. A RIGHT VIEW OF MAN**
- III. A RIGHT VIEW OF SCRIPTURE**
- IV. A RIGHT VIEW OF THE CHURCH**

*The Uniqueness of the Church* – Matt 16:13-20

- 1. A Unique Foundation**
- 2. A Unique Certainty**
- 3. A Unique Ownership**

*The Purposes of the Church* – Selected Scriptures

- 1. Exaltation of God**
- 2. Edification of Believers**
- 3. Evangelization of the Lost**

*COMMITTED TO THE COMMUNITY*

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

## THREE CHARACTERISTICS...

### I. IT'S TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY

*24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another..*

*Prov 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

## THREE CHARACTERISTICS...

### I. IT'S TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY

*24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...*

*1 Pet 4:8 – Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*

*Eph 2:10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

## THREE CHARACTERISTICS...

### I. IT'S TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY

*24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...*

*PHILIP HUGHES: Selfishness and divisiveness go hand in hand...for self-love breeds the spirit of isolationism.*

# THREE CHARACTERISTICS...

- I. IT'S TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY
- II. IT'S TO BE A GATHERING COMMUNITY

*25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some...*

*2 Thes 2:1*

*Acts 2:46*

*Acts 20:7*

*1 Cor 16:2*

## THREE CHARACTERISTICS...

- I. IT'S TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY
- II. IT'S TO BE A GATHERING COMMUNITY

*25...encouraging one another...*

*parakaleo*

*Heb 3:13*

*John 14, 15, & 16 – parakletos ('paraclete') -*

## THREE CHARACTERISTICS...

- I. IT'S TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY
- II. IT'S TO BE A GATHERING COMMUNITY

*Heb 10:26–27 – 26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.*

## THREE CHARACTERISTICS...

- I. IT'S TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY
- II. IT'S TO BE A GATHERING COMMUNITY

*John 6:66 – many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.*

*1 John 2:19 – They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.*

## THREE CHARACTERISTICS...

- I. IT'S TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY
- II. IT'S TO BE A GATHERING COMMUNITY
- III. IT'S TO BE A WATCHING COMMUNITY

*25...and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.*

## THREE CHARACTERISTICS...

- I. IT'S TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY
- II. IT'S TO BE A GATHERING COMMUNITY
- III. IT'S TO BE A WATCHING COMMUNITY

*25...and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.*

*2 Pet 3:3-4 – in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."*

MIKE MCKINLEY: *Whenever a believer joined a Puritan church, he or she had to pledge a covenant with the other members of the church. The covenant usually contained a commitment to follow God carefully, to look out for the welfare of the other members, to avoid conflict, and to do nothing to bring disrepute onto the church.*