**Why Church?** *\*\*Series Graphic\*\**

**Church:** Greek word is *“****ekklesia****,” meaning “the called-out ones or called forth; a gathering of people called out from their homes into a public place.”*

A church is a group of **people**, not a building.

It’s not our church; it’s **HIS** church.

(Matthew 16:13-18)

“When Jesus came to the region of **Caesarea Philippi**, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “**You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God**.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are **Peter**, and on this **rock** I will **build my church**, and **the gates of Hades will not overcome it**.”

1. **Jesus is the Rock** the church is built upon.

(Isaiah 28:16)

“So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, **a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation**; the one who relies on it will **never be stricken with panic**.’”

 Our world produces **panic**, but in Jesus, there is **peace**.

1. God wants His church **to grow**.

(Matthew 16:18)

“…and on this rock **I will build my church**.”

(John 3:16)

“For so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him **shall not perish** but have eternal life.”

(John 3:36)

“Whoever **believes** in the Son has **eternal life**, but whoever **rejects** the Son **will not see life**, for God’s wrath remains on them.”

 God wants to grow His church because **heaven and hell are a reality**.

(Matthew 16:18)

“…and on this rock I will build my church and **the gates of Hades** will not overcome it.”

1. **Nothing** has ever, or ever will, stop **building the church**.

Where in your life are you facing hell right now?