DON’T WASTE YOUR LIFE
**Talk 3: The purpose of church**

**INTRODUCTION**

Rocks, pebbles, sand

The church is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of those God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**1. GOD’S AIM: GATHERED IN THE BEGINNING**

*Genesis 1-3*

*Genesis 3:23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.*

**2. GOD’S ACHIEVEMENT: GATHERED AT THE END**

*Revelation 7: 9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. …13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” 14 I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

*John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*

**3. GOD’S ACTION: GATHERED NOW**

*Mark 1:15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news! 16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.*

*Luke 24:44-49*

*Hebrews 12:18-24*

Summary: The church is the gathering of those God is gathering for the gathering

**IMPLICATIONS: WHY LOVE THE CHURCH?**

**1. Love the church because it’s good for the world**

*Ephesians 3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**2. Love the church because it’s good for others**

*Hebrews 10: 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**3. Love the church in order to make it to the end**

*Heb. 3:12  See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.*

Prayer: Heavenly Father I admit that I have not been living with Christ as my King, but have been living life my own way. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to die for me so that I can be forgiven, and so I can be gathered into your people who will be with forever. Please forgive me. From now on please help me to live with Jesus at the centre of my life as he builds his church. Amen