



Scrappy Church Bible Study - Pt. 12

- "The story of the scrappy church where Ben serves as pastor is neither sudden nor dramatic. When Ben became pastor, the church had an average worship attendance of 160, down from the historic high of 350 in the 1980s. For the first four years of his ministry, attendance continued a gradual decline to 135, and finally stabilized at that point of the year. Now, in his eight year as pastor, Ben has found joy and contentment. The Church began to grow in his sixth year. Average attendance today is around 180." (Pg. 32)
- "I am happy with the growth," Ben told us. "But church health is more than attendance numbers. I am seeing God work through our congregation in a number of ways. We are making a difference. If our church were to disappear today, our neighborhood would miss us. In fact, many of our neighbors would grieve." Ben smiled. "I couldn't say that a few years ago. If we had disappeared then, I don't think anyone outside our congregation would have noticed. That's not so today. We are really a neighborhood church making a difference." (Pg. 32)
- **Scrappy Churches remember the past, but they don't LIVE IN THE PAST! It is important to understand that the Church has had a great history that can't be ignored, but the Church that follows the Lord understands that in order to continue to live it is important to continue to make new history!**

- Every Church has to decide if they only want to be old history or do they want to be new history. The Church has to decide that, and the Church has to make sure that the Lord is the leader and when the Church is the one following the Lord that is when the Church will continue to go forward. The Church will not be able to go forward, when the Church is in love with history more than in love with the Lord, and if the Church isn't in love with the Lord it has what it wants.
- Every Church has to make sure that we are making a difference, every Church has many opportunities to make changes, and every Church has the open doors to be more than the status quo. Just because the status quo is comfortable doesn't mean it should be the standard, when the Lord is the center the Lord is the standard and if we aren't giving our all to the Lord then we have problems. The problems consist when a Church looks at themselves from their eyes instead of the Lord's eyes, and when the Lord doesn't get our attention we falter.
- The Lord is the center of the Church, the Lord is the focus of the Church, the Lord is the power of the Church, the Lord is director of the Church, and the Lord is the change agent for the Church! The Church doesn't get to tell the Lord "NO", the Church is about adjusting to the Lord, and the Lord is the one that directs the Church in the next phases and season of life. If the Church wants to really experience the power of the Lord, it has to wake up to see that the Lord is the one that will change our views and perspective!
- The Lord is the one that will lead us, the Lord is the one that is going to make us rise and we can rise when we understand how important it is to follow the Lord! If we don't follow the Lord we have problems, if we don't trust in the Lord we have problems, and if we don't look up to the Lord where will we go? We can't go anywhere without the Lord, and we need to make sure that we have the Lord so that when times are up and down we don't lose the mission!
- The mission of the Church is to lift up Jesus, the mission of the Church is to follow Jesus, and the mission of the Church is to always be the light of the world. We aren't meant to be in the dark, but we are

meant to be the light in this world, we are meant to be the light when we are faced with various trials, various obstacles, and various challenges but we are still meant to be the light. We can't be the light when we don't spend time with the light.... The light is not us, but the light is Jesus Christ, and because of following Jesus Christ we know that we will improve and we will be a living Church, because we have chosen to stay with the mission.

- The mission that we are staying with is Jesus and the word, we aren't staying with any mission that doesn't bring light to the Lord if we aren't following the Lord. We need to look at ourselves in the mirror, and when we look at ourselves in the mirror we understand and we know that there is something that we all have to do and that is change our focus. Have you ever noticed... Churches that live focus on what matters, and Churches that die focus on things that don't?
- **Why focus on things that Jesus didn't call us to?** We need to understand, that when we are serving the Lord, and when we are following the Lord the Church can always improve when our focus is on Jesus Christ. You will see that sometimes the reason some Churches never grow is because the focus isn't on Jesus, and the danger of not focusing on Jesus is when we don't focus on Jesus Christ, and when we don't focus on the Lord we have nothing to stand on!
- The Church that focuses on Jesus Christ is the Church that always has a high spirit! We have to always focus on Jesus Christ, when we focus on Jesus Christ and when we look up to Jesus Christ we do know that the Church will live, the Church will function, and the Lord will make that Church never falter. The Church that loves Jesus and focuses on Jesus, is the Church that has purpose, that has love, that has desire, and that has determination.
- **There is never a Church without Jesus!** Jesus is the one that we need, and we need Jesus as the Church continues to go forward we understand that we need Jesus. The Church needs Jesus when life is tough, when life is up and down, when life has storms, when life has setbacks, when life has messiness, and when life has upsetting times the Church still

needs to never forget why we are here. We are here because of Jesus Christ, we are alive because of Jesus Christ, we are saved because of Jesus Christ, we are here because of Jesus Christ, and we are powerful because of Jesus Christ!

- The Church that has a fire is because of Jesus Christ! The Church that has fire, has importance, has influence, has impact, and has life is because we keep on lifting up Jesus! Jesus is the one that draws, Jesus is the one that pulls, Jesus is the one that gives us another day, Jesus is the one that makes us feel better, and Jesus is the one that makes us all know that we are not alone, and that we know that the Church will not lose its significance.
- The Church is always significant because the Lord is the leader of the Church, and because the Lord is the leader of the world and of the Church we should know why we are here, we should know why we have life, we should know why we have function, and we should know why the Lord is keeping us alive. The Lord is keeping us so that we are available to Him, and we have to have everybody understand that it is important to be useful and available to the Lord!
- As we walk with the Lord, and when we know why the Lord calls us we need to see the importance of that, because why should we take this lightly? The Church needs to never forget that why we are here.... We are here for Jesus, we are here to lift up Jesus, and we are here because we all see and understand that the Church can't forget that we are here to do ministry and preach/teach Jesus!
- We need to always remember that, and see when we preach/teach Jesus everything else will take place and everything else will fall in. When we lift up Jesus, and when we make Jesus the priority things change, things improve, things get better, and things don't remain the same because we understand that it is important to lift up Jesus. We have to always lift up Jesus, and then when we lift up Jesus we are reminded to know and reminded to see that we can't go forward without Jesus, and we certainly know that we can't have peace without Jesus.

- **What would the Church be like if we always focused on Jesus?** Don't get so caught up in things that make us popular, but don't make us impactful or productive. Don't allow the things of the world to snatch away the voice of the Church, and the Church always has a voice and when the Church has a voice it understands that the voice the Church has is a voice of affirmation, a voice of life, a voice for everybody, and a voice that will never leave the Lord!
- There is still another importance to this as well, that the Church has to realize what is important by staying with the word! You can have a full Church but still not have a Church, we should never get so caught up in the size of the Church that we miss the importance of the spirit of the Church! Just because a Church is full doesn't mean it is a strong Church because there is always the key and the importance of making sure that the Church has the right spirit!
- The right spirit comes from the word of God, the right spirit comes from seeking God, and the right spirit comes from staying close to the Lord. It is those important traits and qualities that keep us all alive and able, that is that we need to always make sure that we are staying in the word of the Lord because the word of God isn't meant to make us happy but it is to grow us. We don't grow with easy word, but we grow with hard word and we grow with word that will convict us as well, and that is what we need as we continue to trust the Lord and function is that we need the word of the Lord.
- We need the word of the Lord to make us not forget why we are here, and we need the word of the Lord to make sure that we will never forget the Lord, and never stop trusting in the Lord. The word of God cleanses us, the word of God purifies us, the word of the Lord helps us, the word of God guides us, the word of God leads us, the word of God takes care of us, and the word of God gives us God!
- That is the key of life and the key of the function of the Church, is that the Church and any life doesn't live without the Lord properly. When you look at your life, are you living a proper life, are you living a respectable life, are you living a healthy life, are you living a spiritual

life, and are you living a life that pleases the Lord? Are you living a life that is pleasing the Lord, and when we think about the life that is pleasing the Lord we have to push things out of the way that aren't good for us, we have to not entertain things that aren't pleasing to the Lord, and we need to make sure that we are the ones that are keeping the word of the Lord in our hearts and our spirits.

- We need the word of the Lord in our hearts, spirits, and lives because we need to always make sure that we are going in the right direction, and that we need to make sure that we are living the right life! The right life is without the Lord and not without the Lord, the right life will make us all realize and understand how much we need the Lord, because we need the Lord so that we get caught up. We need the Lord for influence, we need the Lord for ministry, we need the Lord to be a healthy and clean Church, and we need the Lord always not just some of the time but we need the Lord all of the time!
- The Church will never be clean if it eats the wrong food. The right food is the word of God, the right food is what God provides, and the Church needs to make sure that when we have the right food we know who to follow. We are following the Lord, and the Church has to be clean because when the Church is clean it is because the Lord is the one that we will always make sure that we are staying close to Him!
- The Church is about being that healthy refuge, and if the Church isn't healthy it is because the Church doesn't want to be healthy! The Church can be healthy when the Church is staying close to the Lord, and when the Church is staying close to the Lord the Church will always stay vibrant, stay together, stay whole, stay complete, stay bright, and stay with the right path! The right path is the Lord, and when we stay with the Lord the Church knows and the Church realizes that there is nothing that is more important than the Lord, and there is nothing that is more sacred than the Lord.
- If the Church doesn't let the Lord lead then the Church is satisfied with dying. The Church doesn't belong to us but the Lord, and we need to never forget that as we are the Church we are called to a life of

holiness, we are called to a life of sacrifice, and we are called to a life of service! The Church has to never forget that, because we aren't called to sit down, we aren't called to be passive, we aren't called to be empty, we aren't called to be without God, and we aren't called to be a Church that is just a social gathering!

- **Church is more than just a gathering!** The gathering is the easy part, but the real function of the Church is after the gathering, it is during the week, it is feeding the poor, it is evangelism, it is taking care of His building, it is worship, it is prayer, it is praise, it is looking out for the widows, it is looking out for single parents, it is looking out for schools/students, and it is looking out for the world. The Church is more than just crumbs, but we have to be the full meal for everybody and if we aren't going to be that for everybody that we shouldn't call ourselves a Church!
- We are living in a society now that people want to see more than just the average and the same things, because people want to know is the Church active, is the Church concerned with the needs of everybody, and is the Church more than just a gathering? The Church has to never forget that we are in the world and in the city to serve, the Church has to be the visual for God's goodness and God's truth because it does no good to shout and that's it! We should always worship the Lord, but don't stop at worship now it is time to serve!
- The Church must always make sure that we are in the right spirit, and when the Church continues to make sure that we are serving the Lord and looking out for Him that is when we know that the Lord will always take care of us. The Church must always continue to seek Him, and we have to seek Him and when we seek Him the Church never loses. The Church never fades away, but the Church will always continue to stand because the Church is in the hands of the Lord!
- **The Church was never meant to be apathetic, but it is meant to be energetic!**
- **The Church has the responsibility to light up the world, because if the Church hasn't done its assignment to fulfill the Great Commission then**

the Church hasn't done anything at all! The Church that can't get of the way, is a Church that will never have a way because the way that it could have had will be dead, and that Church will not recover!

- "Scrappy Churches Are Word Churches"

Psalms 119:129-135 ESV - Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. [130] The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. [131] I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments. [132] Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name. [133] Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. [134] Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts. [135] Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

- "Scrappy Churches Are Built On Preaching/Teaching"

Philippians 1:12-18 ESV - I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, [13] so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. [14] And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. [15] Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. [16] The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. [17] The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. [18] What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice.

- "Scrappy Churches Want To Serve"

Nehemiah 4:6-9,14-17 ESV - So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. [7] But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem

was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. [8] And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. [9] And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night. [14] And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." [15] When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. [16] From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, [17] who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.

- "Scrappy Churches Need The Lord"

Deuteronomy 4:1-10 ESV - "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. [2] You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. [3] Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor. [4] But you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today. [5] See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. [6] Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' [7] For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? [8] And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so

righteous as all this law that I set before you today? [9] "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children- [10] how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.'

- "Scrappy Churches Are Dedicated To Ministry & People"

Colossians 3:15-17,23-25 ESV - And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. [23] Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. [25] For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

- The Late Great Theologian Charles Spurgeon said this: "You cannot be Christ's servant if you are not willing to follow him, cross and all. What do you crave? A crown? Then it must be a crown of thorns if you are to be like him. Do you want to be lifted up? So you shall, but it will be upon a cross."
- The Late Great Theologian Francis Schaeffer said this: "Preaching the gospel without the Holy Spirit is to miss the entire point of the command of Jesus Christ for our era. In the area of "Christian activities" or "Christian service," how we are doing it is at least as important as what we are doing."
- The Late Dr. John A. Reed Jr said this: "Everybody who says they represent God, aren't equipped with God's vision."

- What Are People Looking For In A Church According To Studies:

1. Relevant Sermons.
 2. Spiritual Worship.
 3. Community Outreach.
 4. Spiritual Character.
 5. Involvement.
 6. Engagement.
 7. Relationships.
 8. Technology.
 9. Friendly People.
 10. Welcoming Atmosphere.
 11. Spirit-Filled & Biblical Worship.
 12. A Place To Grow & For THE Whole Family.
- The Church has to make sure that the Church is being the Church! The Church has to be the Church, and when you look at the Church and when you see the Church and when we look at the Church we have to show the love of Christ. When people talk about the Church do they talk about Jesus, and when people think about the Church do they think about Jesus and does Jesus show up in our lives?
 - **Does the Church give people the right eyesight?** The thing about eyesight it has to be clear, and we have to ask ourselves when people look at us and view us, do they want to come closer to Christ or do they want to be further away from Christ? We do have to always give a clear picture, and in giving a clear picture we must always ask ourselves that question do we give the proper eyesight, do we make people want to come to Church, and do we make Jesus look good?
 - Do we make Jesus look good? Do we make Jesus an important figure, and do we make the Church a place that people want to come to? There is always something that we have to know, because Jesus does make the difference, Jesus makes us feel better, Jesus makes us feel special, Jesus makes us feel empowered, and Jesus makes us feel complete. We are complete because of Jesus, and the reason we are where we are is

because the Lord is here for us, the Lord is present for us, and the Lord is always with us.

- What we need to understand is.... The Church belongs to Jesus! The Church is owned by the Lord, and we need to understand that one of these days we will not have the same crowds we used to have, we won't have the same people we used to have, and the Church always faces different generations but don't let the Church die because of the inability to go forward!
- Churches die because they refuse to go forward, and when they refuse to go forward people leave, young people leave, the spirit of the Church can be eradicated, and then we will see that the Church that used to be alive is now dead because the Church didn't see past their own way. Our way is dangerous, and our ways can be rough and the reason they can be rough is because when we take us ahead of God we lose, we suffer, and we don't allow ourselves to really feel the power of God.
- A Church that dies didn't just start, it started a long time ago but sometimes a Church that dies refuses to leave a decaying neighborhood when the Lord is packing the moving truck! The Lord is always telling us to move forward, but when we don't move forward we have rejected the Lord's advances and the Lord will let the Church burn itself just so He will speak and tell the Church.... "I told you to move forward but you didn't want to, and now look at the consequences."
- The Church should be more impactful than anything else, and the Church should always make a sound! The Church should make a sound that people can feel, people want it, and people will pick up that sound and help carry that sound further! Stop limiting the Church, because the Church has more to offer, more to give, more to do, and more to say and because of that the Church needs to always keep going and we can't stop because we aren't done until the Lord says we are!
- The Church isn't dead but is alive!
- Since the Church is alive, make sure you understand that you are alive as well and important as well! The Church has the potential and power, and the Church has never lost Jesus, and because the Church has never

lost Jesus it is important that we don't neglect Him! When we don't neglect Him we have Him, and we have all that we need, and we know that the Lord will always see us through everything, and we know that the Lord will always make sure that we continue to live and that we stand still and firm because we know that the Lord has our back!

- Don't be a Church that died, because it was more in love with being stubborn than it was with being in love with the Savior!
- "Scrappy Churches Love Outreach"
Mark 16:15-16 ESV - And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. [16] Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- "Scrappy Churches Seek God"
Psalm 119:137-142 ESV - Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules. [138] You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness. [139] My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words. [140] Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it. [141] I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts. [142] Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.
- "Scrappy Churches Love People"
Mark 2:1-5 ESV - And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. [2] And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. [3] And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. [4] And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. [5] And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."
- "Scrappy Churches Want To Live & Thrive"
1 Kings 5:1-12 ESV - Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his

father, for Hiram always loved David. [2] And Solomon sent word to Hiram. [3] "You know that David my father could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. [4] But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side. There is neither adversary nor misfortune. [5] And so I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD said to David my father, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.' [6] Now therefore command that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. And my servants will join your servants, and I will pay you for your servants such wages as you set, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians." [7] As soon as Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, "Blessed be the LORD this day, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people." [8] And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, "I have heard the message that you have sent to me. I am ready to do all you desire in the matter of cedar and cypress timber. [9] My servants shall bring it down to the sea from Lebanon, and I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you direct. And I will have them broken up there, and you shall receive it. And you shall meet my wishes by providing food for my household." [10] So Hiram supplied Solomon with all the timber of cedar and cypress that he desired, [11] while Solomon gave Hiram 20,000 cors of wheat as food for his household, and 20,000 cors of beaten oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year. [12] And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him. And there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

- "Scrappy Churches Are The Church"

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 ESV - For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. [20] To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. [21] To those outside the law

I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. [22] To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. [23] I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.