



## “Stop Going to Church”

### Next Steps Series

Pastor Mark

1.12.20

*"The righteous will **flourish** like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon." Psalm 92:12*

- *"planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God." Verse 13*
- *"They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green", proclaiming, 'The Lord is upright; He is my rock.'" Verse 14*

### Principles about a seed:

- 1) A seed can only grow if it's **PLANTED**.
  - *"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Matthew 13:3-7*
  - *"Other seed that fell on good soil, multiplied 30 times, 60 times, 100 times." Verse 8*
- 2) Going to church **ISN'T THE SAME** as being planted.
  - The Greek word translated as Church is "ekklesia".
  - It means **GATHERING** or **ASSEMBLY**.
  - When we're followers of Christ, we realize we are the church, & we exist for the world.
  - There's a huge difference between going to a building, & being plugged into a calling, a movement, a mission.

### What happens when you're planted?

- 1) When you're planted **YOUR ROOTS GROW DEEP**.
  - *"They are like trees **that are planted along the riverbank**, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by heat, or worried by long months of drought." Jeremiah 17:8*
- 2) Roots produce **FRUIT**.
  - *"...with roots that reach deep in the water. Such trees are not bothered ....Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit." Jeremiah 17:8*

## C3 Group Questions

**Last Week's Next Steps:** Did you gather at C3 on Sunday to express your faith? Did you build your faith this week through consistent time in prayer & God's Word? If so share what stood out to you in your time with God?

**Ice Breaker:** Describe your family's relationship to church growing up.

**Review:** What one thing stood out to you (either helpful, insightful or troubling) from the weekend's message?

### **Group Discussion:**

In your words, how would you describe being planted at C3?

Why do you think it's so easy to think of church as not much more than a building or weekend activity?

Read Psalm 92:12-15 & Jeremiah 17:8. What do you think it is about being planted in the house of God, in the Church, that leads people to flourish?

Can you share some experiences that have completely changed how you view your role in the Church?

What caused you to take the step of joining this small group? What fruit do you hope to see from being a part of this group? Have you seen any fruit from it?

Do you have room in your life to become rooted & planted in our church? What might be in your way?

How can this group pray for you this week? Who in this group can you pray for this week?

**This Week's Next Steps:** (*"Do not merely listen to the word.....Do what it says."* James 1:22)

- Pray this prayer: *"God, I don't want to just go to church, I want to be Your Church. We're all so different & You brought us together, to grow & flourish where You plant us. I ask You to give us the courage to keep putting our roots deep in the places You lead us. In Jesus name, amen."*
- Commit to your next step & live it out this week! If you don't know what next steps are, go to this page on our C3 website: <https://www.c3tricityies.com/nextsteps/>