

## **God Builds His Church**

December 31, 2017

Thank you so much for choosing to worship with us today. We are thrilled that you are here!

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Our theme for 2018 is centered around God building his church. The theme verse for 2018 is Psalm 127:1. God is the builder of His church and we are his instruments to be used to that end.

*“Unless the Lord builds the house,  
the builders labor in vain.”*

Consider this from Greg Brown who currently serves as a university professor, minister, and a Navy reserve chaplain.

*“Church growth” is a big movement in Christianity. Some, using secular thinking, teach that you cannot grow a heterogeneous church—one with different ethnic and socio-economic groups—because people don’t like to cross those boundaries. Others focus on business principles—you need a coffee shop, and a relaxing and*

*inviting atmosphere where people’s “felt needs” are met. In fact, I read one book on church growth that said in order for a church to grow the service must last no longer than an hour. The logic is that people don’t want to worship for more than an hour—fix your service around what people want, and your church will grow. Clearly, most principles guiding church growth initiatives today are secular instead of spiritual.*

*But, what is God’s plan for church growth? Christ says in Matthew 16:18, “On this rock, I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” Christ is building his church, and we need to find out how he is building it so we can partner with him. When we build on secular principles, we get what man can build—a secular church that won’t last (cf. Ps 127:1). But if we build according to Christ’s principles, we get what God can build—a church that the gates of hades will not prevail against.*

All Things for Christ,  
Michael