LOOKING BACK

Looking Back / Looking Forward
March 15, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

- Matthew 16:18
- Ephesians 3:10
- Acts 2:42-47
- Revelation 19:6-9

KEY POINTS

- The church exists to celebrate and display the work of Jesus Christ, not the achievements of people.
- The church is the *ekklesia*—the called-out people of God gathered together for His purposes.
- Jesus is the One who builds His church and sustains it across generations.
- God often begins His greatest works through small beginnings and simple acts of obedience.
- The church is meant to equip believers and send them out to live out the gospel in everyday life.
- Every believer has a role in displaying the wisdom and glory of God through the life of the church.
- Looking back at God's faithfulness strengthens our faith to trust Him for what lies ahead.

DISCUSSION

- Jesus says in Matthew 16:18 that He will build His church. How does remembering that the church belongs to Christ change the way we think about church leadership, growth, or challenges?
- The word *church* means "called-out ones." What does it practically look like to live as someone called out of darkness and into God's kingdom?
- Pastor Bob emphasized that the church is made up of broken people who find healing and transformation through Christ. How have you experienced that kind of grace within the church community?
- Why do you think God often chooses small beginnings or unlikely people to accomplish His purposes?
- Ephesians 3 teaches that God displays His wisdom through the church. In what ways can a local church demonstrate God's character to the surrounding community?
- Looking back at God's work over the past 15 years was meant to encourage faith for the future. How can remembering God's faithfulness in your own life strengthen your trust in Him moving forward?
- Each generation of believers contributes to the life of the church. How do you sense God inviting you to participate more fully in the life and mission of His church?