



**RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH



**PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN**  
**JUNE 19, 2022**

# **UNSTOPPABLE** **(PART 1)**

STATE OF THE  
*Church*  
2022

**MYRC.CHURCH**

**MESSAGE NOTES**

Note [Matthew 16:18b](#)

There is no human reason why 2,000 years later, not only does the Christian faith \_\_\_\_\_, but that it is the only religious faith in the world that has followers on every continent on earth, and is easily the most \_\_\_\_\_...religious faith on the planet.

## **1. How is it Possible the Christian Faith Has Survived and \_\_\_\_\_?**

Note [Acts 4:13a](#)

These 11 unremarkable individuals...had \_\_\_\_\_ against them the entire religious and political leadership of the Jewish people, and the political and military might of the Roman Empire, the \_\_\_\_\_ power of the ancient world.

How did the Christian faith not only survive all of this, but in just \_\_\_\_\_ become the dominant faith of the Roman Empire? Why would Jesus followers not waver in faith and be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ if this was all a lie?

Because Jesus rose from the dead, is alive forevermore, and is \_\_\_\_\_ people's lives every day (note [1 Corinthians 15:12-20a](#); [Acts 2:47b](#)).

Christianity would have been a short-lived, tiny \_\_\_\_\_ of Judaism if Jesus was never raised from the dead.

If not even \_\_\_\_\_ could stop Jesus, then nothing can stop His Church from completing His mission.

## **2. So What Is Jesus Doing \_\_\_\_\_?**

A. He's building His Church/\_\_\_\_\_ Family - from The Center for the Study of Global Christianity:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Christians worldwide (largest organization in the world by far, i.e., larger than China, the US and the European Union combined).
- 1 out of every \_\_\_\_ people on the planet identify themselves as a follower of Jesus.
- Since the year 2000, the Christian Church has grown faster every year than the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Pentecostals and Evangelicals are both growing \_\_\_\_\_ as fast as the world's population every year for the past 22 years.
- Atheism has \_\_\_\_\_:
  - i. 1970 = 165 million atheists out of 3.5 billion people (\_\_\_\_\_ % of the total population).
  - ii. 2022 = 138 million atheists out of 7.9 billion people (\_\_\_\_\_ % of the total population).
- After the US, nations with the most practicing Christians are Brazil (\_\_\_\_\_ % of the nation); Ethiopia (\_\_\_\_\_ % of the nation); Congo (\_\_\_\_\_ % of the nation); Nigeria (\_\_\_\_\_ million practicing Christians).
- Over \_\_\_\_\_ million practicing Christians in China despite government persecution and growing \_\_\_\_\_ times faster than the population.

### **UNSTOPPABLE:**

- Every minute of every hour of every \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus is building His Church/ Forever Family (note [Romans 8:29](#); [Hebrews 2:11](#); [Galatians 3:26-28](#)).
- And the Church Jesus is building, \_\_\_\_\_ as it is in the midst of a broken world, empowered by the Holy Spirit, has been and will continue to be unstoppable.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!  
Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or hard copy).

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# SG

Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*Oh no, it's a flat tire! Your first thought is: "I can change this tire; just hope I don't get dirty and I'm not too late." Or, "Where's that AAA card so I can have someone come out and change this for me?" For bonus points: Who taught you to change a tire?*

1. Pastor Tom posed the question "How is it possible the Christian faith has survived and thrived?" [Matthew 16:18](#), [Acts 4:13](#) What are some of the things you're aware of the church surviving through history?
2. How do these passages speak to the consistency and commitment of the early church as well as the church in our time? [1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#)
3. From section 2A in your message notes, what was most shocking or surprising to you compared to popular culture's narrative?
4. We know that God is still building His Church/Forever Family ([Romans 8:29](#), [Hebrews 2:11](#), [Galatians 3:26-28](#)). What is your role in that process, and how do you feel about that in light of what you learned in the message?
5. What are some of the ways you have experienced God working in perfect and unstoppable ways through His imperfect church? Is there someone you need to thank this week for what they've done in your life?

Day One: [Matthew 27](#)

Day Two: [Genesis 27](#)

Day Three: [1 Corinthians 11](#)

Day Four: [James 5](#)

Day Five: [Job 27](#)

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

## PERSONAL GUIDE



## MESSAGE NOTES

Note [Matthew 16:18b](#)

There is no human reason why 2,000 years later, not only does the Christian faith exist, but that it is the only religious faith in the world that has followers on every continent on earth, and is easily the most diverse... religious faith on the planet.

### 1. How is it Possible the Christian Faith Has Survived and Thrived?

Note [Acts 4:13a](#)

These 11 unremarkable individuals...had arrayed against them the entire religious and political leadership of the Jewish people, and the political and military might of the Roman Empire, the dominant power of the ancient world.

How did the Christian faith not only survive all of this, but in just 300 years become the dominant faith of the Roman Empire?

Why would Jesus followers not waver in faith and be willing to die if this was all a lie?

Because Jesus rose from the dead, is alive forevermore, and is changing people's lives every day (note [1 Corinthians 15:12-20a](#); [Acts 2:47b](#)).

Christianity would have been a short-lived, tiny sect of Judaism if Jesus was never raised from the dead.

If not even death could stop Jesus, then nothing can stop His Church from completing His mission.

### 2. So What Is Jesus Doing Now?

- A. He's building His Church/Forever Family - from The Center for the Study of Global Christianity:
  - 2.6 billion Christians worldwide (largest organization in the world by far, i.e., larger than China, the US and the European Union combined).

- 1 out of every 3 people on the planet identify themselves as a follower of Jesus.
- Since the year 2000, the Christian Church has grown faster every year than the population.
- Pentecostals and Evangelicals are both growing twice as fast as the world's population every year for the past 22 years.
- Atheism has peaked:
  - i. 1970 = 165 million atheists out of 3.5 billion people (4.7% of the total population).
  - ii. 2022 = 138 million atheists out of 7.9 billion people (1.7% of the total population).
- After the US, nations with the most practicing Christians are Brazil (88% of the nation); Ethiopia (60% of the nation); Congo (95% of the nation); Nigeria (127 million practicing Christians).
- Over 100 million practicing Christians in China despite government persecution and growing 8 times faster than the population.

### **UNSTOPPABLE:**

- Every minute of every hour of every day, Jesus is building His Church/ Forever Family (note [Romans 8:29](#); [Hebrews 2:11](#); [Galatians 3:26-28](#)).
- And the Church Jesus is building, imperfect as it is in the midst of a broken world, empowered by the Holy Spirit, has been and will continue to be unstoppable.

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