



AN INTERACTIVE VIDEO SERIES BY  
**JABE NICHOLSON**



# THE CHURCH: MASTERPIECE OF THE AGES

S T U D Y • G U I D E

THIS GUIDE BELONGS TO:

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"TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH BY CHRIST JESUS TO ALL GENERATIONS,  
FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN" (EPHESIANS 3:21).

**THE CHURCH:**  
MASTERPIECE OF THE AGES

by Jabe Nicholson

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King James Version  
unless otherwise noted.

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# INTRODUCTION

**Although we are attempting in this study to be as thorough as possible...**

...we know we are embarking on an inexhaustible study. *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!"* (see Rom 11:33-36). We trust that our meditations will lead us into a greater understanding of the purposes of God for us, a greater zeal to obey the Holy Spirit in what we shall learn, and a greater sense of appreciation for the Son of God who *"loved the Church, and gave Himself for it"* (Eph 5:25).

## **SOME IMPORTANT INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

**1. In a study of this scope we will be addressing many topics considered controversial.** Our intention is not to stir up arguments among the Lord's people, but to instead stir all our hearts to worship the Lord for the wonders of His redemptive plan, culminating in a glorious Bride, masterpiece of His grace. Therefore we intend to be brotherly, treating all serious Christians in good faith. We only ask that we be al-

lowed to present the truth as we believe it to be.

**2. It would be foolish to set any group of believers up as a standard for others.** Do we not all carry on in weakness and have much for which we need the grace of God? Only the One in the midst has the knowledge and right to properly assess a church's condition: *"I know thy works,"* He says. Instead we hold up the Word of God as the true measure of our spiritual state; it *"discern[s] the thoughts and intents of the heart."* May we eagerly submit to the Spirit as He shows us our need and the wonderful possibilities awaiting those who happily *"buy the truth"* whatever it may cost.

**3. It is often asked, considering the wide array of churches and ways of gathering, whether the Bible's portrait of the Church is "prescriptive or descriptive."** Is the book of Acts intended only as history, or is it modeling the way it should be done by all? This question will be discussed in Lesson 2, but perhaps, for the

time being, grace could be granted the author to affirm that the New Testament has many helpful lessons relating to Church practice today.

## ABOUT THIS STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is laid out in a way that will help you interact with the topic throughout the week.

### Day 1: Read & Summarize

Read the main scriptures being emphasized in the lesson and express the key concept of each passage.

### Day 2: Learn & Respond

Read the short article and respond to the questions following it. *Questions for Discussion* are also provided.

### Day 3: Watch & Answer

Watch the video and fill in the blanks as you go. Space is also provided for general notetaking.

### Day 4: Write & Remember

Write down three impactful statements from the lesson and memorize one key verse.

### Day 5: Reflect & Pray

Take time to reflect on what you've learned and how the Lord is working in your life. What are some ways that the truth can be put into practice? Set time apart specifically to pray about these things.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Be encouraged!



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