

A panoramic view of a city skyline at dusk, with mountains in the background. The sky is a mix of blue and purple, and the city lights are glowing. The text is overlaid on the image.

*GOD'S CHURCH*  

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*GOD'S WAY*»»

TOWARD A VIBRANT CHURCH



GOD'S CHURCH, GOD'S WAY

# What's the Big Deal?

**Congregationally-governed:**  
**God says his church is to be made up of**  
**members who enjoy responsibility for each**  
**other.**

# Elder-led:

**God says his church is to be led, cared for, taught, and protected through a group of qualified and called men who share the responsibility to pastor the members.**

# Deacon-served:

God says his church is to be served by qualified and called men and women called deacons.

## **Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)**

**And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in**

## Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

<sup>44</sup> common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God

## **Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)**

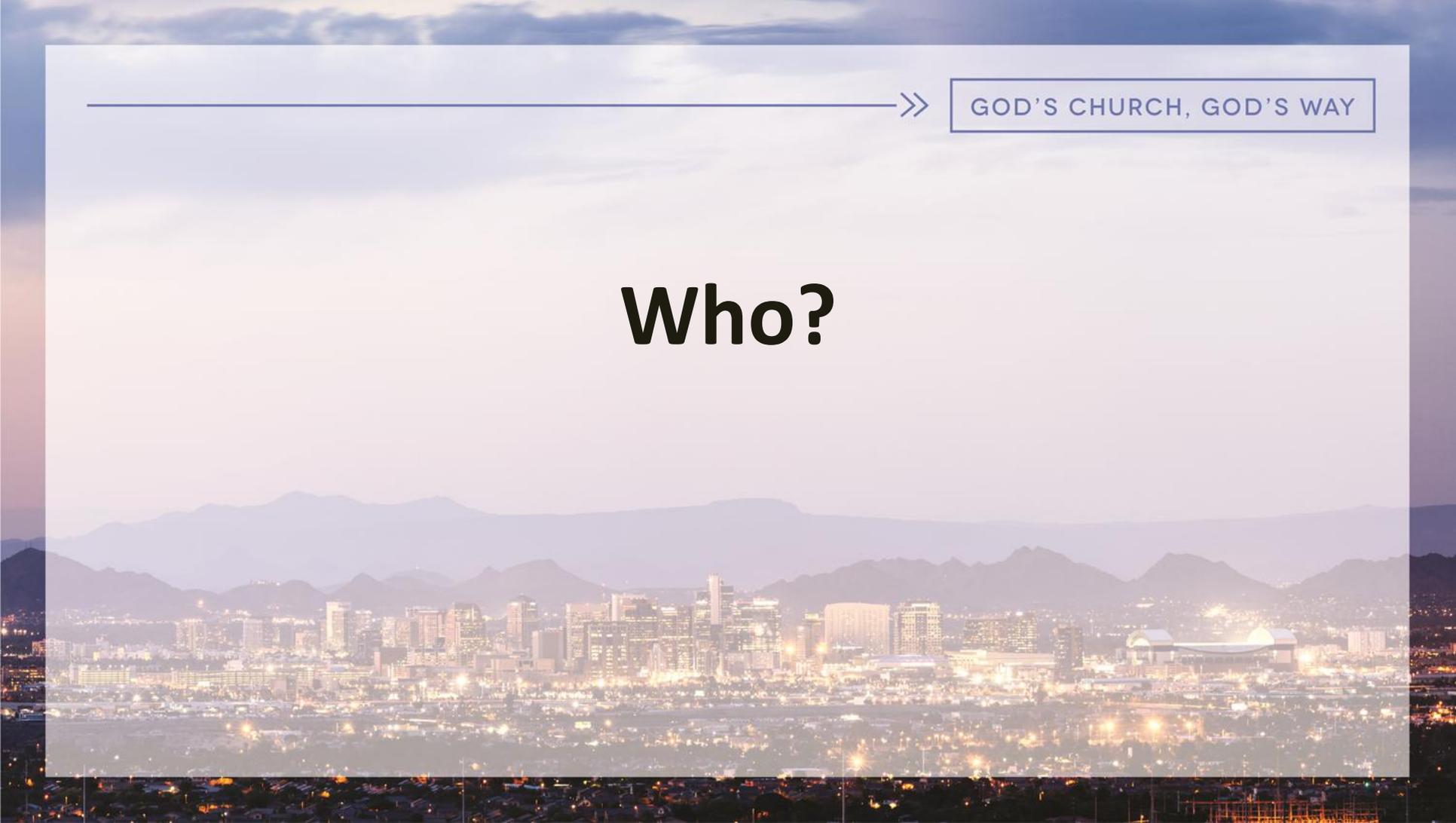
**<sup>47</sup> and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.**





GOD'S CHURCH, GOD'S WAY

# Who?



## Luke 23:13-25 (ESV)

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither did

## **Luke 23:13-25 (ESV)**

**<sup>15</sup> Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him.**

**<sup>16</sup> I will therefore punish and release him.”**

**<sup>18</sup> But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas” — <sup>19</sup> a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection**

## Luke 23:13-25 (ESV)

**<sup>19</sup> started in the city and for murder. <sup>20</sup> Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” <sup>22</sup> A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and**

## Luke 23:13-25 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> release him.” <sup>23</sup> But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for

# Luke 23:13-25 (ESV)

**25** whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.



## **Acts 2:22-24 (ESV)**

**“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you**

## Acts 2:22-24 (ESV)

**<sup>23</sup> crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”**

## **Acts 2:36-38 (ESV)**

**“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”**

## **Acts 2:36-38 (ESV)**

**<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

If you would like to talk to Chuck about the sermon, please feel free to call him, email him or friend him on Facebook.



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