

The Church Jesus Built: Why Study the Church?

(Ephesians 5:23-27)

Introduction: In Matthew 16:18, we read where Jesus spoke of His church. He promised “I will build my church” and not even the “gates of Hades” (i.e., death) shall prevail against it, either by trying to: (1) prevent its establishment (death did not prevent Jesus from building His church) or (2) destroy the church (killing Christians does not destroy the church).

I. Estimation of the Church in the Bible

A) Especially in the book of Ephesians

1. Christ is “_____ over all things to the church” (1:22).
2. The church “is His _____” (1:23).
3. The church is “the _____ of Him who fills all in all”
4. The church is part of God’s “_____ purpose” (3:10-11)
5. To God be “_____ in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages”
(3:21)
6. “Christ is the head of the church; & He is the _____ of the body” (5:23)
7. Christ “_____ the church and _____ Himself for it” (5:25).
8. Jesus’ design is to present it as “a _____ church” (5:26-27).
9. Jesus _____ and _____ the church (5:29-30).

B) Other places in the New Testament

1. The church was purchased with the _____ of Christ (Acts 20:28).
2. The church is His _____ (Colossians 1:18,24).
3. The church is the _____ of God, the _____ and ground of the truth
(1 Tim. 3:15)

II. Efforts to Change the Church in the Bible

A) As represented by “the _____ view.”

1. In seeking to describe the Lord’s church today, some suggest that it is made up of all the different denominations.
 2. But is this the “glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle”?
 3. Such confusion comes not from God! (1 Corinthians 14:33)
 - a. God is the source of peace in His churches
 - b. Where confusion dwells, Satan is the author! (Matt. 13:24-30; 36-43)
 4. When people no longer abide in the doctrine of _____, they have _____ God! (2 John 9)
 - a. When they stop abiding in Christ; cut off (John 15:2,6; Rom. 11:22).
 - b. They may believe they are still His disciples, doing things for Him; but unless they continue to do the Father’s will, they are sadly mistaken! (Mt. 7:21-23)
- This view of the Lord’s church is too “_____”!

B) As represented by “the _____ view.”

1. Some understand the Lord’s church as made up of a particular group of churches.
 2. This view fails to take into consideration some important principles
 - a. There is no one “official” name for the Lord’s church
 - b. The Lord’s church is a body made of individ. members, _____ individual congregations.
 - c. One might be a member of the Lord’s body, but not yet associated with a local congregation (e.g. Ethiopian eunuch -Acts 8:39)
- This view of the Lord’s church is too “_____”!

Conclusion: We are talking about “The Church Jesus Built.” One that is highly esteemed in the Scriptures and one that should be highly esteemed in our own hearts!

My Notes: