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From Where I Sit . . .

“ God’s Church – The Importance Of The Church”

Some Two Thousand years ago, Jesus announced to the disciples His plans to build or establish His church. **Matthew 16:17-18 (NKJV)** ¹⁷“**Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”**

Luke, the earliest church historian, gives us ample evidence of the implementation of this purpose. In **Acts Chapter Two** He describes the first Day of Pentecost after the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Thousands of Jews were in Jerusalem for this annual feast, and the Lord chose this very day to pour out His Spirit on the earth and give birth to that which He declared a few days earlier He would “build.” In **Acts 2:38-47** we learn of the very first souls being added to the Lord’s family, the church. The church became a reality on that eventful feast-day.

Some reject the message concerning an “organized” church and fail to see the importance of it due to some dissatisfaction or disenchantment. We hear their cry: “Preach Christ and leave the church out of it,” or “The church doesn’t save, Jesus does!” Our obligation is to define the Biblical importance of the church. To do so we must examine whether salvation can be separated from the church. We do this by examining God’s purpose and intent for the church. We need to view the church through the eyes of Christ and see just what it was and is to Him in defining the importance of the church to mankind today.

It would be a tragic fallacy to reject the church on the grounds of her problems--inadequacies--or failures! Granted she has some! We must add, these failures are not God’s failing, but our failure to keep His Will perfectly. These problems are based on our human involvements. The church as conceived in the mind of God is perfect. May we come to love the church the way Christ loved her, **Ephesians 5:23-25 (NKJV)** ²³ **For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.** ²⁴ **Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.** ²⁵ **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,”**

Christ and His church are **INSEPARABLE!** It is only as men are brought into the body of Christ--the church (**Eph. 1:22-23**) – that God's purpose in Christ is accomplished. Jesus Himself declared according to **Luke 19:10 (NKJV)** ¹⁰ **“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”** His very name suggests to us this mission, **Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)** ²¹ **“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”** It’s no wonder then that in **Acts 2:47** the Lord added to the church (the body of Christ) those who were being saved! In the New Testament, the church is seen as the body of the saved (**Acts 2:47**). Those who were being saved were also being added to the church.

. . . Terry Broome