

**THE
SPLENDOR
OF
THE
CHURCH**

**Church of Christ
West Jefferson, NC**

1998 Lectures

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THE SPLENDOR OF THE CHURCH

BY

ALAN SMITH

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Alan also sends out a daily devotional by email entitled "Thought For the Day." This message is currently received by more than 330 individuals around the world.

The Splendor of the Church (Ephesians 3:8-12)

Introduction:

Splendor suggests something that is "extraordinarily impressive". There are many aspects of the church that are full of splendor: sacrifice, mission, worship, name. The most impressive thing about the church, though, is that God allows anyone to be a part of it who desires to do so. This is what Paul frequently refers to as the "mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:3,4,9).

I. Privilege of Preaching (Eph. 3:8)

1. We proclaim the "unsearchable riches of Christ".
2. These blessings are available to all those who are "in Christ" (Eph. 1:3).

II. Centrality of the Church (Eph. 3:9)

1. The Old Testament prophets did not understand fully the concept of the church (I Peter 1:10-12), nor were they able to envision a joining together of the Jews and Gentiles.
2. Yet it is through this "mystery" (the church) that Jews and Gentiles (all mankind) have had the opportunity to be part of one great body of the saved (I Cor. 12:12-13).

III. Amazement of the Angels (Eph. 3:10)

1. "Principalities and powers" (angelic beings) have been shown the "manifold wisdom" of God through the church.
2. Until the church was established, even the angels did not understand God's plan, though they desired to do so (I Peter 1:12).

IV. Part of the Plan (Eph. 3:11)

1. The establishment of the church was no accident or afterthought. It was the "eternal purpose" of God from the very beginning of time.
2. That plan was accomplished in Jesus Christ as he shed his blood and established the church (Eph. 2:13-18).

V. Access is Attained (Eph. 3:12)

1. The average Jew had no access into the Holy of Holies in the Temple, which represented the very presence of God.
2. But, through Christ, we have the ability to approach the throne of God with boldness (Heb. 4:15-16).

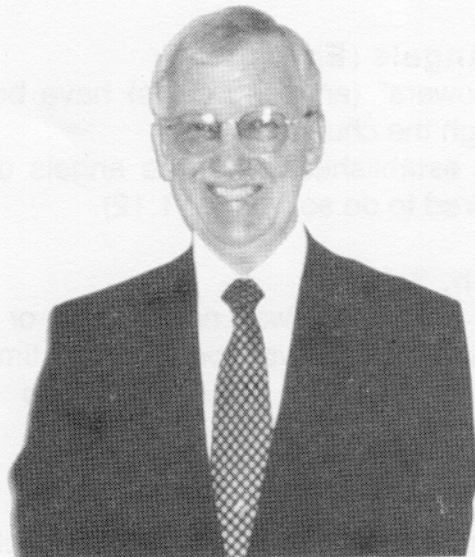
Conclusion:

Christ has made available every spiritual blessing (including access to the throne of God) to those who are a part of his body. But, even more amazing than that is the "mystery" hidden for centuries, the realization that anybody who wants to can be a part of that body.

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

BY

MILTON MATHERS



Milton has been preaching the gospel for twelve years. Full-time the last six years.

He has preached in California, Oregon, Virginia, and North Carolina.

He has been at the church of Christ in West Jefferson, NC, going on three years.

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. The beginning of the church was in the mind of God since the very beginning of time - Eph. 3:10-11.
2. John the Baptizer said that the kingdom/church was close by - Mt. 3:2.
3. After John was put into prison, Jesus said that the kingdom/church was at hand - Mrk. 1:14-15.
4. Under the limited commission, the twelve were to preach the kingdom was at hand - Mt. 10:7.
5. Jesus had promised that He would build His church - Mt. 16:18-19.
6. Jesus' disciples were taught to pray for the kingdom to come - Mt. 6:9-10.
7. Jesus had told His disciple that the kingdom would come with power - Mrk. 9:1.
8. The disciple had asked Jesus when the kingdom would be restored to Israel - Acts 1:6.
9. Jesus told them that the kingdom would not come until they received power from on high - Acts 1:8; Mrk. 9:1.
10. We now go to the book of Acts, in order to find:
 - (1) the establishment/beginning of the church of Christ;
 - (2) how one can be a member of His church; and,
 - (3) a record of those who went about into all parts of the world - preaching, teaching, and baptizing believers into Christ, the church of Christ.

I. THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

- A. Where?
 1. In Jerusalem - Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:12.
 2. On the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection - Acts 2:1.
 3. Which was on the first day of the week - Sunday.
- B. When?
 1. About 33 A.D.
- C. What happened?
 1. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles with power - Acts 2:2-4.
 2. Enabling the apostles to speak to those Jews that were gathered in Jerusalem of different nations - Acts 2:5-13.
- D. What was the results?
 1. Upon hearing Peter and the other apostles, 3,000 precious souls were saved, and the Lord added those saved ones to His church - Acts 2:14-47.
- E. This was the inspired account of the beginning/establishment of the church of Christ in the first century.

II. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WAS TO CONTINUE TO GO OUT INTO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

1. The apostles were to carry out the Great Commission of Mt. 28:18-20; Mrk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-49.

2. We find in Acts 4:4 that upon preaching the gospel, many of the 5,000 believed, not counting women and children.
3. In Acts chapter 5, verses 12-14, multitudes of people were added to the Lord.
4. After the appointment of special servants for the purpose of taking care of the Grecian widows, *“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith”* Acts 6:7.
5. From Jerusalem, just after Stephen was stoned, we find the first account of when the church started to scatter - Acts 8:1-4
6. Philip went to Samaria, preaching Christ - Acts 8:5,12-13.
7. Then Philip was told by an angel to go to Gaza - Acts 8:26-39.
8. In Acts 9, we find Saul of Tarsus being converted - verses 1-19.
9. When Peter was at Lydda, he spoke the word, and many obeyed the Lord - Acts 9:32-35.
10. At Joppa, Dorcas was raised from the dead and many believed on the Lord - Acts 9:36-42.
11. Then we come to Acts chapters 10 & 11, where we find that the Gentiles are now accepted in the church of Christ by gospel obedience.
12. Men from Cyprus and Cyrene came to Antioch preaching the Lord Jesus to the Greeks, many believed and turned to God - Acts 11:19-21.
13. The Jerusalem church of Christ sent out Barnabas to Antioch and much people were added unto the Lord - Acts 11:22-24.
14. After Barnabas met up with Saul in Tarsus, he brought him back to Antioch to be with the church, and they taught much people. The disciples were then called Christians first in Antioch - Acts 11:25-26.
15. Paul and Barnabas spoke to most of the people in Antioch of Pisidia and many believed and the word of God was spread throughout that region - Acts 13:13-52.
16. Again, we have Paul and Barnabas speaking in another synagogue in Iconium and a great multitude believed - Acts 14:1.
 - a. After much trouble with certain Jews, they went to Lycaonia, Lystra, and Derbe, and the region about: preaching the gospel - 14:2-7.
17. While at Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch; Paul & Barnabas appointed elders in every church - Acts 14:19-23.
18. Paul & Silas were called to go to Macedonia (Philippi, a city of Macedonia). While there they taught Lydia and her household the gospel and baptized them - Acts 16:9-15.
19. While at Philippi, Paul & Silas were thrown into prison for making the spirit of divination come out of a woman - Acts 16:16-34. Here is a brief account:
 - a. Paul & Silas were singing and praying unto God.
 - b. An earthquake had unfastened their stocks and opened the doors.
 - c. The jailor was about to take his life, but Paul said they were all there.
 - d. The jailor asked a most important question - “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

- e. Paul answered the jailor in verses 31-34.
- 20. It was said of Paul & Silas in Thessalonica; that they had turned the world upside down - Acts 17:1-6.
- 21. Many Bereans believed because they had an open mind to the scriptures that were being taught by Paul & Silas while at Thessalonica. Even some who were wealthy - Acts 17:10-12.
- 22. Paul preached in the midst of the Areopagus to the Athenians. Many believed - Acts 17:22-34.
- 23. Paul, Silas, and Timothy met in Corinth, to preach the gospel. Many Corinthians, hearing, believed and was baptized - Acts 18:5-8.
- 24. Paul was at Ephesus in the school of Tyrannus for two years, preaching the word of God to the Jews and Greeks - Acts 19:8-10.
- 25. Paul worshipped with the church in Troas: breaking bread (Lord's supper) and preaching till midnight - Acts 20:6-12.
- 26. While Paul was at Miletus, he called for the elders at Ephesus to come. He gave them some divine instructions - Acts 20:17, 25-28.
- 27. Upon preaching the gospel, Paul almost persuaded King Agrippa to be a Christian - Acts 26:28.
- 28. The book of Acts closes with Paul teaching and preaching of the kingdom of God, and the things concerning Jesus - Acts 28:23-31.

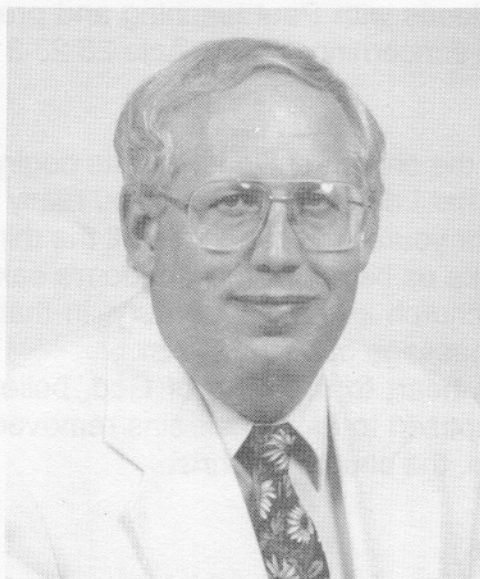
CONCLUSION:

- 1. We have just noted how the church of Christ had its beginning.
- 2. Many things happened, that I did not mention. You really need to go back and read the whole book of Acts for yourselves, and note all the things that happened.
- 3. I believe that this will make us better for the kingdom's sake.
- 4. We need to be like the church in the first century, in that, they went about **boldly** proclaiming the saving message of Jesus Christ.
- 5. Those that had an open heart to the word of God, believed, repented, confessed their belief, and were baptized to have their sins removed, and the Lord added the saved ones to His church, the church of Christ.
- 6. Give invitation.

THE NAME OF THE CHURCH

BY

ED FLOYD



Ed Floyd is a native of Center, Alabama. Ed has been preaching for 18 years, having done local work in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee.

Ed is presently located in Mountain City, TN where he has been preaching for over 6 years.

THE NAME OF THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

1. Isaiah spoke of the establishment of the church. Isa. 2:2
2. In the book of Daniel, we learn of a kingdom that would be established and never be destroyed. Dan. 2:44.
3. Note Joel 2:28-32.
4. In Acts 2:14-21, Peter tells of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel. It was no longer in the distant future, but at hand.

DISCUSSION: AS WE CONSIDER THE NAME OF THE CHURCH LET US CONSIDER....

I. THERE IS ONE CHURCH.

1. Matt. 16:18 - "I will build my church."
2. Col. 1:24 - The church is the body of Christ.
3. Eph. 4:4 - There is one body. (Eph. 1:22-23).
4. God's word makes it clear that Christ built his church and he built only one.

II. WHAT SHOULD BE THE NAME OF THE CHURCH WHICH OUR LORD BUILT?

1. It is his church. Matt 16:18.
2. If it is his church, then why do we not call it after him? We must show a proper relationship with God and Christ.
3. Acts 2:47 - What church? The one that Jesus built.
4. 1 Cor. 12:27 - We are the body of Christ, and members in particular.
5. Rom. 16:16 - In this passage, individual congregations are spoken of collectively as the churches of Christ.
6. God's word should convince us that the church should wear the name of Christ and not some man-made name which we cannot find in His word.
7. The church of the New Testament is known by several names.
 - (1) The church of Christ. Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16.
 - (2) The church of God. 1 Cor 1:2; 1 Tim 3:15.
 - (3) The church. Eph. 3:10; Col. 1:24.
 - (4) The church of the Lord. Acts 20:28.
 - (5) The body of Christ. 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:12.

III. LET US NOTICE SOME REASONS WHY THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH SHOULD WEAR THE NAME OF CHRIST.

1. Purchased by Christ. Acts 20:28.
2. Christ is the head of the church. Eph. 1:22-23.
3. Chief corner stone is Christ. Eph 2:20.
4. Savior is Christ. Eph 5:23.
5. Loved by Christ. Eph. 5:25.

6. Subject to Christ. Eph. 5:24.
7. Christ is the foundation. 1 Cor. 3:11.
8. Christ is the intercessor. Heb. 7:24-25.
9. It is owned by Christ. Matt. 16:18.
10. The message is Christ. Acts 8:5; 1 Cor. 2:2.
11. We are washed by the blood of Christ. Rev. 1:5.
12. We are called by the gospel of Christ. 2 Thess. 2:14.
13. We are to be married to Christ. Rom. 7:4.
14. Our worship is authorized by Christ. Jn. 4:24.
15. Christ is our advocate. 1 Jn. 2:1-2
16. Christ has given us the terms of membership. Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Matt. 10:32-32; Mk. 16: 15-16.

IV. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH ARE KNOWN AS:

1. Christians. Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16.
2. Priests. 1 Pet 2:5; Rev. 1:6.
3. Disciples. Acts 11:26.
4. Saints. Rom. 1:7; Phil. 1:1
5. Brethren. Col. 1:2; James 1:2.
6. Children of God. Gal. 3:26.
7. God's people are never known by some man-made denominational name.

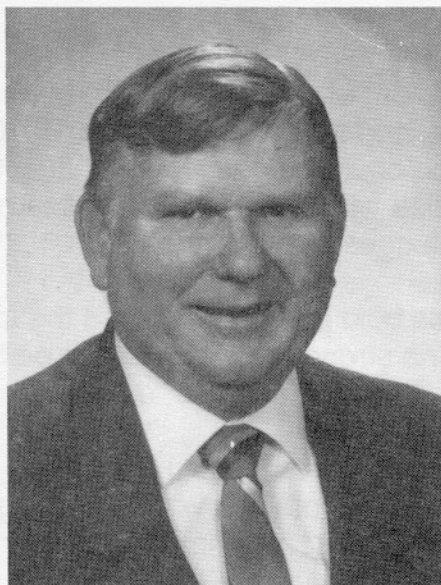
CONCLUSION:

1. The mission of the church is ordained by Christ. Matt. 28:18-20.
2. Our Lord built only one church.
3. That church is the church of Christ and it must bear a name that is found within the New Testament.
4. Those names are to signify the relationship between Christ and his church.
5. Friends, there is something in a name. If we love Jesus, we will obey him. Jn. 14:15

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

BY

JOHN MAYO



John Mayo is the preacher for the Lenoir church of Christ in Lenoir, North Carolina. He is a graduate of the East Tennessee School of Preaching.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Introduction:

Webster defines the word "mission" in several ways, but the one that I feel best fits my subject is; "that with which a messenger or agent is charged". The church is the "agent" of Jesus Christ in this definition.

Discussion:

- I. **Briefly, I would like to discuss some of the things that are not the mission of the church.**
 - A. **To build buildings.**
 - B. **To solve the worlds social problems.**
 - C. **To provide recreation for its members.**
 - D. **To write creeds.**
 - E. **To hold conferences, conventions, etc.**

- II. **The church's mission is basically two-fold. Namely - Evangelism, and Edification.**
 - A. **Evangelism**
 1. The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-47.
 2. Jesus came to seek and save the lost: Luke 19:10.
 3. Jesus' prayer for the church today: John 17:20-21.
 4. Must not compromise with error. Compromise makes us popular with men, and offends God: Judges 21:25
 - B. **Edification**
 1. Acts 9:26-31 - Pauls bold preaching edified the churches.
 2. Romans 15:1-2 - The strong are instructed to edify the weak.
 3. Romans 14:19 - Christians are to do things that make for peace and edification.
 4. I Corinthians 8:1 - Love edifies, not knowledge.
 5. Ephesians 4:11-16, 29 - Truth in love makes us grow.
 6. I Thessalonians 5:11 - church commanded to continue to edify.
 - C. **Practical Christianity**
 1. God requires action with our faith. James 2:14-17, Matthew 25:31-46.
 2. Galatians 6:10
 3. Define: "we", "good", "all"

Conclusion:

The mission of the church, simply put, is to continue the work that Jesus gave us to do.

1. Go
2. Seek
3. Preach and teach.
4. Help others.

THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

BY

HAROLD MOREFIELD



Harold has been preaching the gospel for many good years. He is currently preaching for the church of Christ in Rock Springs, Tennessee.

THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We learn that when we obey the gospel of Christ he adds us to the church. As a Christian we must worship Him: “ *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised,) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*” **Hebrews 10:23-25**
- B. We are to worship God in spirit and in Truth: “ *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in **spirit** and in **truth**.*” **John 4:23-24**
- C. Just what does it mean to worship God in spirit and in Truth? In **spirit; spiritual or right attitude and guided by truth.**

I. THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

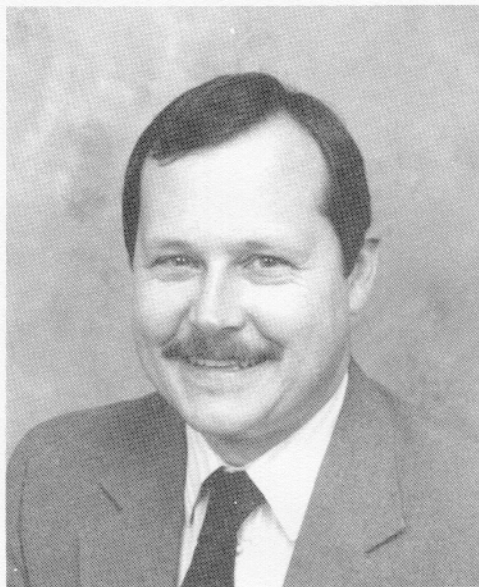
- 1. **Lord's Supper:** “ *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat, this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*” **Matthew 26:26-28**
 - a. But when are we to partake of the Lord's Supper? “ *And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow, and continued his speech until midnight.*” **Acts 20:7**
 - b. Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth, said “ *For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*” **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**
- 2. **Giving on the first day of the week:** “ *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*” **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**
 - a. As he purposeth in his heart: “ *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*” **2 Corinthians 9:7**

- b. Many upon visiting the church of Christ ask “ Why do you not give every time you come together? Why do you not have bake sales and other money making projects?” Notice **1 Cor. 16:1-2**.
- 3. **Singing:** “ *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*” **Ephesians 5:19**. “ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*” **Colossians 3:16**
 - a. Who is to sing? Everyone in the congregation.
- 4. **Teach the Bible:** “ *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*” **Acts 2:42**. “ *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” **2 Timothy 2:15**
- 5. **Prayer:** “ *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*” **Acts 2:42**. “ *Pray without ceasing.*” **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

BY

JONNIE HUTCHISON



Jonnie Hutchison has been preaching the gospel for twenty-three years. He is a 1976 graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching in Memphis, TN.

He has done local work in Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Jonnie is in his fifth year of labor with the Liledoun Road church of Christ in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

Titus 2:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. My assignment for this series of lectures on the church is "The Doctrine of the Church."
 - A. The Bible says in Titus 2:1 KJV - "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: "
 - B. When the New Testament uses the word "doctrine" it simply refers to the teaching of God's revealed will in the Bible.
 1. The Bible is doctrine or teaching of God.
 2. And specifically, the New Testament is referred to in the Bible as the "doctrine of Christ." (Hebrews 6: 1; 2 John 9).
2. When we speak then of the "doctrine of the church" we are actually speaking of what God has revealed by the Holy Spirit through the process of inspiration and which we now have in its written form in the New Testament of Jesus Christ - it is simply the gospel of Christ.
 - A. This is what the church must believe and practice in order to be acceptable and pleasing to God.
 - B. This is why the inspired Paul exhorted the evangelist Timothy in I Timothy 4-16 KJV.
 - C. Those who reject the doctrine of Christ are who view it as optional have obviously overlooked, have not clearly understood, or have simply rejected the meaning of this passage.
 1. Clearly this passage indicates that our salvation and that of others depends upon, not only taking heed to oneself but in continuing in the doctrine.
 2. That makes the doctrine of Christ of all importance to each one of us.
3. It is sad that as we look around us in the religious world today we see the tragic result of departing from the doctrine of Christ.
 - A. Religious division is everywhere; bible ignorance abounds; false doctrine is deceiving literally millions of precious souls and leading them to ultimate destruction.
 - B. Perhaps of even greater consequence to the church is those among us who are saying that doctrine is not important and who have a take it or leave it attitude toward the teaching of the New Testament.
 - C. If these erring brethren had their way the church of Christ would no longer preach and practice the distinctive doctrine of Christ.
4. Can we see the importance of studying the subject of "The Doctrine of the Church?"

I. **WHAT WAS THE DOCTRINE BELIEVED AND TAUGHT BY THE ORIGINAL CHURCH?**

- A. WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE ORIGINAL CHURCH WE ARE SPEAKING OF THE ONE WE READ ABOUT IN OUR NEW TESTAMENTS.**

1. The one which Jesus promised to build - Matt. 16:18.
2. The one which he did build and which came into existence on the first Pentecost following the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his ascension into heaven as recorded in Acts 2.
3. The one to which the saved were added - Acts 2:38, 41, 47.
4. The one of which every one of the apostles of Jesus Christ were members.
5. The one which Paul persecuted before he came to a knowledge of the truth and became himself a member of the divine institution that he once sought to destroy.

B. WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE ORIGINAL CHURCH WE ARE NOT SPEAKING OF:

1. Any man-made denomination or religious institution.
2. That which even remotely resembles modern Protestantism, Catholicism, nor Judaism.
3. Rather we are speaking of that blood-bought church (Acts 20:28), the spiritual body of Jesus Christ over which he is the head (Colossians 1:18).
4. We are speaking of the one body (Eph. 4:4), the original church of Christ.

C. WHAT WAS THE DOCTRINE OF THAT ORIGINAL CHURCH OF CHRIST?

1. **THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE.** (Acts 2:42 KJV) "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
 - i. The apostles' doctrine is what the apostles' of Jesus Christ taught.
 - ii. The apostles' doctrine is distinctive because of where it originated.
 - iii. The apostles' doctrine did not originate in the minds of the apostles but in the mind of God.
 - a. John 16:12-15 KJV.
 - b. The apostles taught what Jesus taught them through the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Concerning the matter of inspiration Paul wrote in I Corinthians 14-37 KJV.
 - iv. The apostles' doctrine is the original doctrine of the church.
 - 1) The very first congregation of the Lord's church in existence continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine.
 - 2) The words translated "continued stedfastly" means that they earnestly, diligently, and consistently received the truth into which the Holy Spirit had guided the apostles.
 - 3) They lived that original doctrine and taught that original doctrine.
2. **THE AMAZING DOCTRINE.** (Acts 13:12 KJV) "Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being **astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.**"
 - i. Yes the original apostles' doctrine impacted all who heard it.
 - a. That should not surprise us because of what is said about Jesus. (Luke 4:32 KJV)
 - b. Since the apostles' doctrine, the original doctrine, believed and

practiced by the church, came from the Lord, therefore it is no wonder that it amazed those who heard it.

- ii. Many responded in a negative way to the amazing apostles' doctrine.
 - a. The Jewish leaders of the day tried their best by intimidation and by persecution to stop it from being taught.
 - b. they could not destroy the powerful influence of this amazing doctrine.
 - iii. Some responded positively by accepting and obeying its commands and because of it the church grew tremendously in those first few months of its existence.
 - iv. Yes, all who heard it were impacted by the amazing doctrine of the apostles.
3. **THE CONVICTING DOCTRINE.** (Acts 5:28 KJV) "Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."
- i. Those who spoke these words understood the apostles doctrine and it convicted them of their sin even though they rejected it.
 - ii. The book of Acts is filled with examples of the convicting power of the apostles' doctrine - After hearing the apostles' doctrine - Men and women were "pricked in their hearts" - Acts 2:37; Expressed a desire to be baptized and were baptized - Acts 8:36-38; Actually trembled - Saul - Acts 9:6 and Felix Acts - 24:25.
 - iii. This is the convicting power of the original doctrine believed and practiced by the first century church.

II. WHY THE CHURCH MUST BELIEVE AND PRACTICE THAT ORIGINAL APOSTLES DOCTRINE TODAY.

A. BECAUSE THE DOCTRINES AND COMMANDMENTS OF MEN WILL NOT SAVE.

1. What are the doctrines and commandments of men? Simply what man has originated as religious teaching as opposed to what God has revealed in His Word.
 - i. Let me give you a you a couple of doctrines that man has originated that have no basis in the doctrine of God.
 - a. Christmas: Where in the original doctrine of Christ is there any command, example, or inference that we are to celebrate the birthday of Christ as a special religious day?
 - 1) Yet each year December 25th is set aside as a day of remembering the birth of Jesus. Yet, even some of our own brethren are joining right in with our religious neighbors in such unauthorized religious celebrations.
 - 2) Galatians 4: 10-11 KJV.
 - b. Wearing of religious titles - Father, pastor, doctor, right reverend, and even the minister. Matt. 23:5-11 - Jesus condemned the use of

- religious designations which exalt one above others.
2. The Bible clearly teaches that the doctrines and commandments of men actually set aside the original doctrine revealed to the apostles and make it non-effective.
 - i. What Jesus taught about human religious traditions - Matthew 15:3, 8-9.
 - ii. The commandments of men turn people from the truth - Titus 1:14 KJV.
 - iii. Religious teachings originated by men seduce folks away from the truth - Colossians 2:8 KJV.
 3. No, friends, the doctrines and commandments of men will not save and that is why the church must continue stedfastly in the apostles doctrine today.
- B. BECAUSE THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE HAS BEEN PRESERVED FOR US.**
1. The very fact that the original apostles doctrine is available in written form is evidence that God desires his people today to continue in the practice of it.
 - i. 2 Timothy 3:14 KJV.
 - ii. 2 Timothy 1: 13 KJV.
 - iii. I Timothy 4:16 KJV.
 2. Does the Lord want the church to continue to practice and teach the original doctrine?
 - i. Why else would He preserve it?
 - ii. Why else would He command it to be perpetuated through teaching others?
- C. BECAUSE WE WILL BE LOST IF WE DO NOT ABIDE IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE.**
1. Galatians 1:6-9 - He who would pervert or change the original gospel delivered by the apostles of Christ will be cut off from God.
 - i. How many preachers stand before God today separated because they have embraced and teach man-made doctrine rather than the original doctrine?
 - ii. We had better be looking for book, chapter and verse for that which we teach and practice.
 - iii. We had better make sure that we have God's permission revealed in His word because it is a serious matter indeed to embrace something other than the original doctrine.
 2. We may place our souls in jeopardy simply by failing to rebuke teachers of error - Eph. 5:11.
 3. The Bible tells us how to react to those who teach another doctrine - 2 John 9-11; Romans 16:17.
- D. BECAUSE THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE HAS NOT LOST IT'S EFFECTIVENESS.**
1. Effective in it's power to convict the sinner - Heb. 4:12.
 2. Effective in it's power to save - Romans 1: 16. The gospel is still the power of God unto salvation and will be until the Lord comes again.
 3. Effective in its power to edify the church - Acts 20:32 KJV.

CONCLUSION

1. It's no wonder that God through His word insists that we "speak the things that become sound doctrine." Titus 2: 1.
2. The church of our Lord is distinctive because we believe and practice the distinctive doctrine of Christ.
 - A. We lose that distinctiveness and our special relationship to Jesus Christ when we forsake His distinctive doctrine.
 - B. The doctrine of the church of Christ is the New Testament of Jesus Christ.
 1. If we continue in it - we can enjoy the continued hope of eternal life.
 2. If we depart from it - we have only certain destruction awaiting us eternally.
3. Brethren, in an age when so many are departing from the true doctrine of Christ let me admonish you to continue steadfastly in that doctrine.
 - A. Depart neither to the right nor to the left.
 - B. Keep that straight course and walk that narrow way that leads to eternal life.

THE COST OF THE CHURCH

BY

CLANCY ETIENNE

**Clancy preaches for the church of Christ in Hartsville, SC.
He is a graduate of the East Tennessee School of Preaching,
Knoxville, TN.**

THE COST OF THE CHURCH

Text: Acts 20:28

Theme: That we may develop a deeper appreciation for the bride of Christ - the church.

INTRODUCTION:

1. What is worthy by cost is worthy of appreciation.
 - a. Houses.
 - b. Cars.
 - c. Clothes.
 - d. Furniture, etc.
2. Some great purchases in life/history.
3. The church of Christ is the greatest purchase ever made - Eph. 5:25.
4. Philosophy in society: Christ, yes,.. the church, no!
 - a. This declaration implies two possibilities.
 - b. Something is wrong with the bride of Christ, or there is a degree of ignorance about the relation of Christ and his church.
5. There can be no true relationship with Christ which does not embrace the beauty, the importance, and the value of his bride. (Do we love our friend, but hate his spouse?)
6. Any person who wishes to benefit from God's Son must become a member of his blood-bought church.

I. THE GREAT COST OF THE CHURCH. Acts 20:28

- A. Why is this cost so great?
 1. The best was given. John 3:16
 2. Blood.
- B. It required blood. Heb. 9:22
 1. Not any kind of blood.
 2. Not animal blood. Heb. 10:4; 9:12 -13
- C. It required precious (perfect, pure) blood. 1 Pet. 1:18 -19
 1. Only God's unique Son had this blood.
 2. His blood is superior to that of animals. Heb. 9:13 -14
- D. In the giving of his blood, he gave his life. Matt. 20:28; John 10:17-18

II. THE PURPOSE OF THIS GREAT COST. Ephesians 1:9 -11

- A. To reconcile man & God. Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20-21; Heb. 2:17
- B. To redeem man back to God. Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14
- C. To rescue man from sin. Eph.2:1; Col. 2:13

III. THE HOPE OF THIS GREAT COST. Hebrews 2:9-11

- A. Members of this costly body are destination bound - (somewhere).

1. Our travel requires the best captain.
 2. One who can pilot the course.
 3. It also requires individuals who are willing to travel. Acts 27:31
- B. To heaven we must go. 1 Pet. 1:4; Col. 1:5
- C. In heaven we will remain. 1 Thess. 4:17; 1 Cor. 15:24
- D. In heaven we will rest. Heb. 4:8 -11

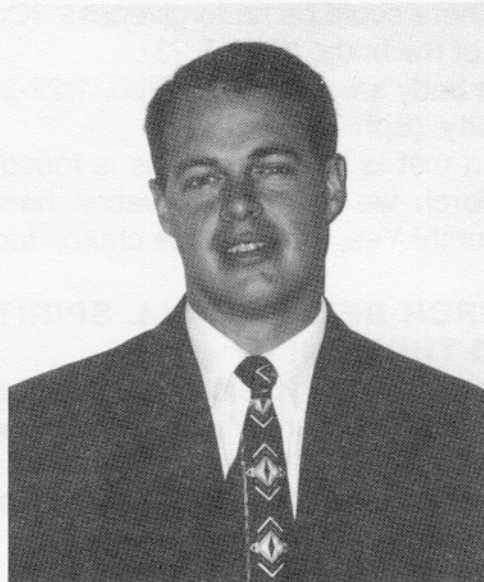
CONCLUSION:

1. To everyone who refuses to come into the blood-bought church of Christ, God's Son died in vain. Gal. 2:21
2. This costly bride (church) of Christ is the only vehicle destined for heaven. Acts 27:31
3. One Savior will save only his own costly body. Acts 4:12; Eph. 5:23

THE NEED FOR THE CHURCH

BY

DAVID IRICK



**David preaches for the Centerview church of Christ in
Elizabethton, TN.
He's a faithful gospel preacher.**

THE NEED FOR THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

1. Those who believe pre-millennialism would have us to believe Jesus came to set up a physical kingdom, and that when the Jews rejected him he set up the church as a limited substitute. This makes the church nothing more than an after thought of God. This, however, is wholly false.
2. The church of our Lord has been in the eternal mind of God from the beginning of time. The promise given to Abraham found its fulfillment through Christ and his church. We cannot take Christ without his church. Both are linked together for our salvation.

I. WE NEED THE CHURCH BECAUSE SALVATION IS FOUND WITHIN THE CHURCH.

1. Salvation is found only in Christ!
 - a. "Neither is there salvation in any other" (Acts 4:12; John 8:24.).
 - b. Salvation is in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 3:24; 11 Tim. 2:10).
2. Further, salvation is found *only* in the *body* of Christ which is his *church*!
 - a. Jesus promised to build the church, and purchased it with his blood. (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28).
 - b. Without this blood there could be no forgiveness. (Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:22).
 - c. Jesus is the savior of the body. (Eph. 5:23).
 - d. The church and the body are the same. (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).
 - e. There is but one body. (Eph. 4:4).
3. Therefore the salvation that is in Christ Jesus is found in his church and in no other. Without the church we have no salvation here on earth because the saved make up the church! Yes, we need the church today!

II. WE NEED THE CHURCH BECAUSE ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST ARE FOUND THEREIN!

1. Spiritual blessings come to those in the church of our Lord. (Eph. 1:3).
2. Consider some of the blessings that come to us by being in the body of Christ.
 - a. Being in a right relationship with God we can pray. (1 Pet. 3:12; Acts 12:5,12).
 - b. We can gain strength through study and prayer. (Matt. 4:4; 26:41; 1 Cor. 10:13; Phil. 4:13; 1 John 4:4, etc.).
3. We have God's providential care. (Rom. 8:28).

III. WE NEED THE CHURCH FOR THE EDIFICATION FOUND THEREIN.

1. We see God's wisdom in having the church assemble.
 - a. We benefit from associating with others. (Ecc. 4:9-12).
 - b. It is a sin to refrain from assembling together with the saints when we have opportunity. (Heb. 10:25).
2. We edify (build up) others when we assemble together by:
 - a. Singing. (Col. 3:16).

- b. Studying together. (I Pet. 2:2).
- c. Praying together. (Acts 4:24-29).
- d. By associating together we know the needs of others. (I Cor. 12:25-31)
- e. Helping brethren overcome sin. (I Cor. 5:11; Gal. 6:1)
- f. Working together to do good and evangelize. (Acts 11:29; Mk. 16:15,16), Etc.

CONCLUSION

1. Without the church of our Lord we do not have salvation today. Without the church we would lack spiritual blessings. Without the church we could never be edified properly. Yes, we need the church!
2. Are you in Christ's church?
3. The plan of salvation is hear the word. (Rom. 10: 17). Possess a saving *faith* (Mk. 16:16). Repent of sin. (Acts 2:38). Confess his name. (Rom. 10:9-10). And be baptized into Christ where salvation is located. (Rom. 6:3-6; Acts 2:38).

THE ENTRANCE INTO THE CHURCH

BY

HARRY CALLOWAY



Harry holds a B.A. degree in Bible from Freed-Hardeman University and has done graduate work at Harding University Graduate School of Religion. He currently worships with the church of Christ in West Jefferson.

THE ENTRANCE INTO THE CHURCH

Introduction

- A. Our plea concerning the church of the New Testament
- B. The splendor of the church (Eph. 3:10,11)
- C. The need for the church

I. How one enters the church

- A. Added (Acts 2:47; 5:14)
- B. What the church is
- C. What it means to be "saved"
- D. Ramification of Acts 2:47: "What must I do to be saved?"

II. How one is saved

- A. Hear
 - 1. John 5:24
 - 2. Acts 10:6; 11:14; 10:22,33
 - 3. Romans 10:14-17
- B. Believe
 - 1. John 8:24
 - 2. Acts 16:30-34
 - 3. Hebrews 11:6
- C. Repent
 - 1. Luke 13:3,5
 - 2. Acts 17:30,31
 - 3. II Cor. 7:10
- D. Confess
 - 1. Matt. 10:32,33
 - 2. Acts 8:36-38
 - 3. Romans 10:9,10
- E. Be baptized
 - 1. Mark 16:15,16
 - 2. Acts 2:38
 - 3. Romans 6:1-6; I Peter 3:21

III. How Saul of Tarsus was saved

- A. His actions
- B. His attitude

Conclusion

- A. Man's greatest need is salvation from sin; that need is met in the church of Christ; therefore, membership in the church of the New Testament is essential to salvation.
- B. The Lord adds those who are being saved to the church; the church and

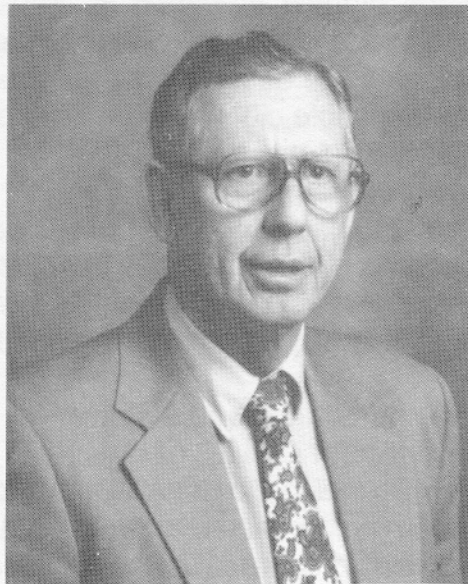
salvation are thus inexorably linked together in God's plan for providing eternal life for men; therefore, to know and to obey the biblical doctrine of salvation is of quintessential importance.

C. The scheme of redemption

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH

BY

CLAYTON WINTERS



Clayton began his preaching career in 1951. Since that time he has served as the local preacher for a number of churches of Christ in the East Tennessee and South West Virginia area.

For the past 34 years he has labored with the Erwin church of Christ in Erwin, Tennessee, where he presently resides.

He has held meetings in 9 states, conducted radio programs over the entire length of his ministry, and for the past 19 years has been a speaker on Biblical Viewpoints, a television program aired in several states.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

- A. Foundation may mean one of two things.
 - 1. The support or weight-bearing groundwork on which a structure is built (Luke 6:47-49).
 - 2. The point of origin or establishment of an entity or institution.
 - a. The foundation of the earth (Job 38:4; Psa. 102:25; Isa. 40:21; Matt. 25:34).
 - b. A city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God (Heb. 11:10).
 - c. Paul did not want to build on another's foundation; that is, a work originated by someone else (I Cor. 3:10).
- B. Thus this lesson will deal with the establishment and supporting structure of the church of Christ, and the significance these have for us.

I. THE ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH WAS IN ZION.

- A. Facts about the city of Zion.
 - 1. Originally Zion was the highest mountain in Jerusalem. David captured it from the Jebusites and made it his capital city (2 Sam. 5:7). Once the temple was built on Mount Moriah, the designation extended to it as well, and finally came to be applied to the whole city of Jerusalem (Isa. 8:18; 10:24).
 - 2. Zion was the capital of the holy people.
 - 3. It was the home of the great temple.
 - 4. It was the place where God had chosen to put His name (I Kings 11:36).
 - 5. It was symbolic of the church of Christ (Heb. 12:22,23).
 - 6. It was symbolic of the eternal abode of the saints (Rev. 21:2).
 - 7. It was only fitting that this city should serve as the launching site of the church of Christ.
- B. Conclusive evidence that the church was established in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ.
 - 1. A tried and true stone was laid in Zion (Isa. 26:18; Rom. 9:33; 1 Pet. 2:6).
 - 2. What Isaiah saw concerning Jerusalem (Isa. 2:1-3; Luke 24:46,47).
 - 3. Daniel saw Christ's ascension to receive the kingdom (Dan. 7:13,14).
 - 4. A fountain for sin opened in Jerusalem (Zech. 13:1).
 - 5. Jesus pointed to the approaching kingdom during His personal ministry (Matt. 4:17; 10:7; Mark 9:1).
- C. It is evident the church began on Pentecost because:
 - 1. Christ was made Head over His church (Eph. 1:19-23).
 - 2. He was made King over His kingdom (Acts 2:34-36).
 - 3. The apostles became ambassadors in reality (I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:8,11).
 - 4. Repentance and remission of sins were first preached here (Luke 24:46-49).
 - 5. Peter calls Pentecost the beginning (Acts 11:15).
 - 6. On this day Peter used the keys of the kingdom (Matt. 16:19; Acts 2:37,38).
 - 7. On this day the church began to be referred to as an existing body (Acts 2:47).

II. THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH IS JESUS CHRIST.

- A. Jesus said the church would be built on the bed-rock of truth that He is the Son of God (Matt. 16:18).
- B. Other foundations can no man lay than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ (I Cor. 3:10,11).
- C. We are built on the foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus himself being the chief corner stone (Eph. 2:20).
- D. Any religious group or practice that is unable to trace its origin to Jesus Christ and His apostles is built on the wrong foundation, and will never survive the storm (Matt. 7:24-27; 15:3-9,13; John 12:48; Gal. 1:6-9).

III. WHAT IT MEANS TO BUILD ON THIS FOUNDATION.

- A. According to Paul, building on the foundation of another is to build on a work another has already begun (I Cor. 3:10-14).
- B. To build on Christ and the apostles is to:
 - 1. Recognize that the foundation (Christ and the apostles) supports the superstructure. To tamper with it is to destroy the building, the church of God (John 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12).
 - 2. Build in conformity to the plan already laid out for the superstructure. This plan was developed in eternity (Eph. 3:9-11), is laid out in the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16,17), and is not subject to change or modification (Gal. 1:6-9).
 - a. The plan of entrance into the building (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
 - b. The proper worship by those making up the building (Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19).
 - c. The correct organization of the church - elders and deacons (Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-13).
 - d. The proper conduct and support by its "living stones" (I Pet. 2:5; Titus 2:11,12).
 - 3. Be careful about the kind of material we put in the building (I Cor. 3:10-15).

CONCLUSION

The foundation of Jesus Christ stands sure (2 Tim. 2:19). We cannot destroy it, but we can destroy ourselves by refusing to build on it or trying to change it.

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

BY

W.B. "BILL" DORRIETY



Bill Dorriety has been engaged in preaching, teaching and missionary activities for more than twenty-five years.

Bill enjoys preaching in gospel meetings and has worked in efforts in a number of states as well as in foreign countries. He and his wife have worked in mission efforts in Germany, Russia, Scotland, England, Ireland and Northern Ireland. For the last fourteen years they have worked with the churches in Northern Ireland annually.

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 5:27

Introduction:

1. The love of Christ for his church is a fundamental truth in God's Word (Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28).
2. Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23).
3. Sinful men are saved, reconciled, redeemed in the body of Christ, the church (Eph. 1:3; 2:14-16; Gal. 3:26,27; Acts 2:47).
4. The purity of the Lord's church must vigorously be maintained in order for her to be ready to meet the Lord in judgment.

I. IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION?

- A. The term "church" was first employed by Jesus when he told Peter just how he was going about his work of saving the lost (Matt. 16:18-19).
 1. Jesus made possible the salvation of the human race by his death, burial, and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
 2. He authorized the "good news of salvation" to be preached to the entire world (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15,16).
 3. Those who responded to the call which went forth were builded into his church (Acts 2:47; Eph. 2:19-22).
 4. These called out and called together people are the ones who are going to be saved in heaven provided they remain faithful to the Lord (1 Pet. 1:1-11; Rev. 2:10).
- B. There is a sense in which all the people who are saved are the "church of God" (Acts 7:38; Eph. 2:14-16).
 1. The reference in this lesson concerns those who will enter heaven as members of the church which Christ established and over which he rules as head.
 2. The sole purpose in calling people into his church here on this earth is to save them from the evil one and prepare them for the eternal abode in the world to come.
 3. Not all who enter the church here and now will enter the eternal kingdom (Matt. 13:47-50).
- C. Numerous descriptive phrases are applied to the church in the New Testament.

II. THE CHURCH IS PICTURED AS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST.

- A. The Church in Corinth was like a bride "*espoused to one husband to....Christ*" (2 Cor. 11:2).
 1. Paul earnestly desired to "*.... present (the Corinthian Church) a chaste virgin to Christ*" (verse 2).
 2. He was anxious lest they be seduced by false teachers, knowing that even pure minds could be corrupted (verse 3).

3. Paul warned against " *false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ* " (2 Cor. 11:13-15).
- B. The Lord used a wedding parable to teach watchfulness (Matthew 25:1-13).
 1. The five wise virgins were prepared, the five foolish ones were unprepared (verses 2-4).
 2. The bridegroom came unexpectedly, while they slept (verses 5,6).
 3. The lesson: Watchfulness, readiness for judgment (Matt. 25:13).
- C. Marriage was used to emphasize a lifetime relationship with the Law of Christ (Rom. 7:1-6).
 1. Important lesson: scriptural marriage is one man, one woman, for life.
 2. The Christian's deliverance from the Law of Moses is also emphasized.
 3. Faithfulness to Christ and His law exclusively is the primary message.
- D. The relationship of the church to Christ was pictured in the marriage relationship (Eph. 5:22-33).
 1. Christ is the head and savior of the body, he loved the church and gave himself for it, and the church is sanctified, purified, and cleansed by Christ (verses 23, 25 and 26).
 2. The church must be presented to Christ " *...a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish* " (verse 27).
- E. The marriage supper of the bride and the Lamb (Rev. 19:6-9).
 1. The Lamb is Christ (Isa. 53:7; John 1:29,36).
 2. The church is the Lamb's bride (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7,8).
 3. " *Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb* " (Rev. 19:9).

III. THE LORD'S CHURCH IS PORTRAYED AS A KINGDOM.

- A. This kingdom was the eternal purpose of God (Eph. 3:8-11).
 1. Chosen before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3-7).
 2. " *... called with an holy calling, ... according to his own purpose and grace ... given us in Christ Jesus before the world began* " (2 Tim. 1:9).
- B. This kingdom was the subject of inspired prophecy (2 Pet. 1:20,21).
 1. The Lord's house to be established in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2; 1 Tim. 3:14,15).
 2. " *whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered* " (Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:13).
 3. " *in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed* " (Dan. 2:44; Matt. 16:18,19).
 4. " *I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel ... Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers...* " (Jer. 31:31,32; Heb. 8:8-13).
- C. After Pentecost the church is always spoken of as being in existence.
 1. " *The Lord added to the church* " (Acts 2:47); " *... translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son* " (Co. 1:13); John " *in the kingdom* " (Rev. 1:9).
 2. In coming into the church we receive the kingdom (Heb. 12:22-24).
- D. In the end the kingdom will be delivered to God (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

1. The Lord will return to take vengeance on those that know not God and obey not the gospel (2 Thess. 1:7-10).

IV. THE CHURCH, THE JUDGMENT AND, FINALLY, PARADISE.

- A. Salvation is found and the saved are in the church of Christ.
 1. The church of Christ is the divine, blood bought institution whose only ruler and creed is Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22,23).
 2. The church of Christ is that spiritual body to which the saved are added, and that body of which Jesus Christ is the savior (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23).
 3. The church of Christ is that divine body in which sinful men are redeemed, and that men of all nations are reconciled (Titus 2:14; 2:14-16).
 4. The church of Christ is the body in which all spiritual blessing can be found (Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:26,27).
- B. The Judgment is certain (Matthew 25:31-46).
 1. The Lord commands that all men repent because He has "*appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness...*" (Acts 17:30,31).
 2. All men will appear before the Lord in judgment to "*receive the things done in his body... whether it be good or bad*" (2 Cor. 5:10).
 3. All men must fear God and keep his commandments because "*God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil*" (Eccl. 12:13,14).
- C. The church (the saved) in Paradise.
 1. Paradise, Gr. *paradeisos*. The Hebrew equivalent is "garden," and used for the place (Eden) where God placed Adam and Eve. To the Jewish mind it carries the idea of the sum total of blessedness (Gen. 2:8).
 2. Paradise, the present location of the tree of life, "*in the midst of the paradise of God*" (Rev. 2:7).
 3. Jesus said, "*today shalt thou be with me in paradise,*" in answer to the request of the thief (Luke 23:43).
 4. Paul recorded that he was transported into the "*third heaven.*"
 - a. The first heaven, air, atmosphere where the clouds are (Gen. 2:1,19).
 - b. The second heaven, the firmament where the sun, moon and stars are (Deut. 17:3; Matt. 24:29).
 - c. The third heaven is where God dwells (Matt. 5:12, 16, 45, 48).
 5. Paul called the third heaven "*paradise,*" therefore, it is safe to conclude its meaning to be "*where God dwells.*"
- D. Paul taught that to be "*at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord*" and called on Christians to desire "*to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord*" (2 Cor. 5:6,8).
 1. Paul's conflicting desires for the future (Phil. 1:21-24).
 2. Paul's confident readiness (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

CONCLUSION:

1. The Lord wants all men to repent and be saved in order that they may look with confident hope for "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (1 Peter 3:9-13).
2. The "*new heaven and a new earth*" is wonderfully described by John (Rev. 21:1-5).
3. "*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city*" (Rev. 22:14).

**Church of Christ
in
West Jefferson
Invites you to**

OUR LECTURESHIP

THEME:

“THE SPLENDOR OF THE CHURCH”

Sunday, September 27th

- 10:00 a.m. *“The Splendor of the Church”* - Alan Smith
11:00 a.m. *“The Beginning of the Church”* - Milton Mathers
12:30 p.m. Lunch at the building
2:30 p.m. *“The Name of the Church”* - Ed Floyd
6:00 p.m. Congregational Singing
7:00 p.m. *“The Mission of the Church”* - John Mayo
8:00 p.m. *“The Worship of the Church”* - Harold Morefield

Monday, September 28th

- 7:00 p.m. *“The Doctrine of the Church”* - Jonnie Hutchison
8:00 p.m. *“The Cost of the Church”* - Clancy Etienne

Tuesday, September 29th

- 7:00 p.m. *“The Need for the Church”* - David Irick
8:00 p.m. *“The Entrance Into the Church”* - Harry Calloway

Wednesday, September 30th

- 7:00 p.m. *“The Foundation of the Church”* - Clayton Winters
8:00 p.m. *“The Future of the Church”* - Bill Dorriety

**PLEASE PLAN TO COME AND BE WITH US!
221 BARNETT ST, WEST JEFFERSON
(336)246-5615 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

