

# The Glorious Church

## INTRO:DUCTION

1. *"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." -- Eph 5:27*
  
2. The church is:
  - a. The manifestation of the manifold wisdom of God: *"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God," -- Eph 3:10*
  - b. The eternal purpose of God: *"According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:" -- Eph 3:11*
  - c. The body of Christ: *"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." -- Col 1:18*
  - d. Composed of living stones: *"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." -- 1 Pet 2:5*
  - e. Those who have obeyed the gospel: *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." -- Act 2:41...Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." -- Acts 2:47*
  - f. The place where God receives glory today: *"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." -- Eph 3:21*

## I. WHY IS THE CHURCH GLORIOUS?

- A. Because of the price paid for it:
  1. *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." -- Acts 20:28*
  2. *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" -- 1 Pet 1:18-19*
  3. When we consider the price paid, we see it is a glorious church indeed!
  
- B. Because of the greatness of its head:
  1. *"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." -- Eph 1:22-23*
  2. The head of the church is the lamb of God: *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." -- John 1:29*
  3. The head of the church is the one who subjected Himself to the Father for us: *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." -- Phil 2:5-8*
  4. *And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. (1Co 15:28)*

- C. Because he lives forever:
1. ***"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." -- Rev 1:18***
  2. ***"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." -- 1 Cor 15:20***
- D. Because of its glorious mission:
1. Jesus left the great commission in the hands of the apostles: ***"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." -- Mark 16:15-16***
  2. Notice the beautiful way Paul described his mission: ***"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." -- Acts 26:18***
  3. It is a glorious mission because of the inheritance which awaits: ***"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." -- Acts 20:32***
  4. It is a glorious mission because of the glory which awaits: ***"Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:" -- Rom 2:6-7...But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:" -- Rom 2:10***
- E. It preaches a glorious gospel:
- "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." -- 2 Cor 4:1-5***
- F. Because of its glorious destiny:
- "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." -- John 14:1-3***

## **II. WHAT WILL CAUSE ITS GLORY TO DEPART?**

- A. The glory in the Old Testament
1. Tabernacle and temple were glorious
    - a. Tabernacle -- ***"Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle." -- Exo 40:34-35***
    - b. Temple -- ***"And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD." -- 1 Ki 8:10-11***
    - c. They were filled with glory because the commandments were obeyed: **Notice the number of times in Exodus 40 the idea is conveyed that Moses did what God told him to do.**

2. The glory departed from Israel:  
*"And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband." -- 1 Sam 4:21*
3. The glory departed the temple:  
*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." -- Mat 23:37-39*

B. There are some things will cause the glory to depart today also: *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." -- Rev 2:5*

1. **PLAY-ACTING or HYPOCRISY**

- a. *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." -- Mat 23:27-28*
- b. Members of the church who do not live like members will cause the world to have a dim view of the church.
- c. *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." -- Rev 3:15-16*
- d. This is why it is important we be what ought to be at all times:
  - 1) **Public places** -- grocery stores, restaurants, ball games, post office, etc.
  - 2) **Homes** -- the reason why we lose so many of young people to the world is they do not see the glory of the church in the home!! Parents like to blame it on everyone else expect themselves.
    - a) Which is more important - public school or Bible school?
    - b) Making a living or teaching them to live spiritually?
    - c) Knowing what the latest politician said or what the apostles said?
  - 3) **Worship services** -- attitude?

2. **PREEMINENCE or POWER**

- a. *"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church." -- 3 John 1:9-10*
- b. There are some brethren who will either rule or ruin!
- c. If they do not get things their way they will not be able to be a part of the body and work together for the good of the body.
- d. *"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." -- Rom 14:19*
- e. *"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." -- Eph 4:3*
- f. *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" -- Heb 12:14*
- g. In an eldership this can also be a problem -- *"Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." -- 1 Pet 5:3-4*

3. **POPULARITY**
  - a. Some people will cause the glory to depart by compromising for the sake of being popular with everyone.
  - b. *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." -- 2 Tim 3:12*
  - c. *"To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you." -- Gal 2:5*
  - d. Sometimes members will change congregations simply because of business reasons.
4. **POSITIONS in life**
  - a. *"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?" -- James 2:1-4*
  - b. When we are prejudiced, we cause the glory to depart.
  - c. Jesus died for all: *"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." -- 1 John 2:2*
  - d. Every person is made in the image of God: *"Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God." -- James 3:9*
  - e. We are not better than any one else because we are all made of one blood: *"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;" -- Acts 17:26*
  - f. There is no respect of persons with God: *"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." -- Acts 10:34-35*

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Those who have obeyed the gospel have been added to the glorious church of Christ.
2. We should endeavor to live in such a way as to not bring spot or blemish upon this glorious church.
3. Are you a member this morning?
4. Are we living in such a manner as to bring spot or blemish?