

BLESSINGS IN THE CHURCH.

5/8/2022 AM

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Contrary to the position taken by premillennialism that the church is a temporary expedient in the plan of God, the Bible teaches that the church always existed in the mind of God. (Part of His eternal plan Eph. 3:10-11)**
- B. The church was also the subject of many Bible prophecies.**
 - 1. The most common figure by which it is referred is a kingdom.
 - 2. Isaiah 2:2-3, it is referred to as “the Lord’s house.”
 - 3. During His earthly ministry, Jesus promised to build His church (Matt. 16:18). On the day of Pentecost following His resurrection, His church was brought forth (Acts 2:47).
- C. In today’s society:**
 - 1. Few understand the New Testament teaching about the church.
 - 2. And few appreciate the blessings that are found within the church.

DISCUSSION: IN THE CHURCH WE HAVE...

I. SALVATION.

- A. The Bible often speaks of two entities or realms of which we can be a part.**
 - 1. One realm is called the world.
 - 1) The world is evil, sinful, violent, dark, and controlled by Satan.
 - 2) 1 John 2:16.
 - 2. The other realm is the church.
 - 1) The church is in the world, but it is not part of the world.
 - 2) It is the realm controlled by Jesus Christ.
 - 3. The word “church” means “the called-out ones.”
 - 1) Paul wrote to “the church of God which is at Corinth” (1 Cor. 1:2).
 - 2) Verse 9 reminds them that they were the called of Jesus Christ.
- B. The people of the world are lost.**
 - 1. The saved are found in the church.
 - 1) Acts 2:47.
 - 2) Ephesians 5:23.
 - a. Notice the words, “he is the savior of the body.”
 - b. The body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23).
 - c. Thus, Jesus is the savior of the church.
 - 2. Jesus’ blood redeems us (Eph. 1:7).
 - 3. Jesus’ blood purchased the church (Acts 20:28).
- C. The moment we are saved, we become part of the saved, the church.**

II. UNITY.

- A. The world is a divided mess.**
 - 1. Races, cultures, languages, rich and poor
 - 2. Hundreds of man-made religious systems.
- B. The church brings all of this diversities into one body.**
 - 1. Eph. 2:11-16. Note: Hath made both one; Of twain one new man; Reconcile both unto God in one body.
 - 2. Galatians 3:26-28.
- C. Phil 2:1-3.**

III. FELLOWSHIP.

- A. The church is often referred to as “the body of Christ” (1 Cor. 12:12, 27; Eph.**

3:6, 4:12; 5:23; Col. 1:24; 2:17).

1. The body is composed of many members.
2. There is supposed to be a lot of interaction between the members just as there is within the physical body.

B. The word “fellowship” means: partnership, participation, social intercourse, association, and joint participation.

1. The early church’s example (Acts 2:46).
2. We see the fellowship that we are to have with each other in the “one another” relationships mentioned in the New Testament.
 - 1) Hebrews 3:13.
 - 2) Hebrews 10:24.
 - 3) 1 Peter 4:9.

C. The fellowship that we are to have is like that of a family.

IV. HOPE.

A. Hope involves deep desire and earnest expectation.

B. In Ephesians 5:22-33, Paul talks about the husband-wife relationship and compares it to the relationship between Christ and the church.

1. Ephesians 5:25-27.
2. There is coming a day when the bridegroom, Jesus Christ, is going to return for His bride, the church.
 - 1) He is coming back for the saved, those in the church.
 - 2) 2 Timothy 2:19.

C. We have hope.

1. We expect something wonderful beyond this life.
 - 1) Our sufferings and struggles will one day come to an end.
 - 2) Our lives will not end in death, but in eternal life with our Savior.
2. 1 Thess. 4:13.
3. Romans 12:12.
4. Romans 8:24.

V. CONCLUSION

A. We have many blessings because we are members of the church: salvation, unity, fellowship and hope.

B. When we obeyed the gospel, the Lord added us to the church as one of the saved. Now the hope that we have keeps us in a saved condition.