

BLESSINGS IN THE CHURCH.

4-23-2023 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read text: Eph. 3:10-11.

B. Regarding the text:

1. The church was part of God's eternal plan (**Eph 3:10-11**).
2. The church was also the subject of many Bible prophecies (**Isa. 2:1-2**).
3. Jesus promised to build His church (**Matt. 16:18**). Note **Acts 2:47**.
4. In our world today most do not accept the New Testament teaching about the church.

C. In this lesson, let's discuss: "The Blessings of the church."

I. SALVATION.

A. The Bible speaks of two entities or realms of which we can be a part.

1. One realm is called the world controlled by Satan (**1 John 2:15-17**).
2. The other realm is the church.
 - 1) It is a realm of godliness, peace, love, light, and is controlled by Jesus Christ.
 - 2) The word "church" ("ekklesia") means "the called-out ones."

B. In the world, men are lost.

C. The saved are found in the church (Acts 2:47**).**

1. **Eph. 5:23** "He is the savior of THE body" (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**).
2. Salvation is found only within the confines of the church.

D. Christ's blood purchased the church (Acts 20:28**). His blood...**

1. Cleanses: **Rev. 1:5**.
2. Redeems us: **Eph. 1:7**.

II. UNITY.

A. The world is divided over many things.

B. In the church we become fellowcitizens (Eph. 2:11-19**).**

C. In Christ, we are to be of one mind (2 Cor. 13:11; Gal. 3:26-28; 1 Cor. 1:10**).**

D. Working together will be blessed (Nehemiah 4:6; Rom. 16:21**).**

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 should be interaction between the members just as there is within the physical body.

B. The word "fellowship" means a partnership, joint participation.

1. The early church's example (**Acts 2:46**).
2. Fellowship is "one another" relationship (**Heb. 3:13; Heb. 10:24**).

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

IV. HOPE.

A. Hope involves deep desire and earnest expectation.

B. In **Ephesians 5:22-27, Paul speaks of the husband-wife relationship and compares it to the relationship between Christ and the church.**

1. Read **Eph. 5:25-27**.
 - 1) "That he might present it unto himself a glorious church."
 - 2) Jesus Christ, one day will return for His bride, the church.
2. He will return to gather His own, the saved, the church.

C. We have hope. This world is not all there is.

1. Our sufferings and struggles will one day come to an end (**Rev. 21:4**).
2. Our lives will not end in death, but in eternal life with our Savior.

D. Jesus will one day come for His bride.

1. **1 Thess. 4:13-18.**
2. We rejoice in this confident hope (**Rom. 12:12**).

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.**
- C. We have many blessings in the church.**
 1. It is up to us to receive them.
 2. “Would you be free from the burden of sin? There is power in the blood.”
 3. Through obedience, we have access to His blood.