

A GLORIOUS CHURCH

DISCUSSION

Our text for the lesson today is Eph. 5:27. READ. Here, Paul speaks of the Lord's desire to ultimately receive the church in heaven as "A Glorious Church." In order for that to occur, the church needs to be preparing for such glory by being what the Lord wants it to be while on earth. The church is **give glory** to God while on earth in preparing **for** that entrance into heaven. (Read Eph. 3:21).

Now let's see what the Lord of glory desires the church do while it is here. The divine Lord presents His will for the church, in carrying out His desire.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the church has a DIVINE CHALLENGE FROM THE LORD.

A. In the Great Commission, the Lord alluded TO this challenge, to **GO** into all the world to carry out this commission. Mark 16:15-16, 20; cf Acts 1:8

B. This challenge would exist as long as the world stands, and there are souls that are lost in sin. Matt. 28:18-20; John 4:35; 1 John 5:19; Col. 1:23

II. 2nd, the church has a DIVINE MESSAGE TO DELIVER.

A. The mission is to **teach** and **preach** the GOSPEL, or the WORD of God. Rom. 1:16

1. The gospel was first preached in Jerusalem with Peter preaching to the multitude of Jews who had assembled for the feast of Pentecost. Acts 2:5
2. The gospel spread in and around Jerusalem until the great wave of persecution by the Pharisees and Scribes, working largely through one man in particular, Saul of Tarsus.
3. The persecution caused many to flee into other parts of the world, and they took the gospel with them, and shared it wherever they went. Acts 8:1-4

B. The process of *teaching* and *preaching* is the **process** the Lord chose to make known His divine will. 1 Cor. 1:18, 21

1. God doesn't want just preaching to take place, but the preaching of **truth**, the **gospel**.
2. There is LOTS of so-called preaching taking place in the religious world, but the "gospel" is not the message being delivered by many of them,
 - a. Some are proclaiming a message of excitement and entertainment.
 - b. Some are preaching a message of so-called sowing of **seed**, asking their listeners to send their seed **money** to them, that the Lord will bless them in a material way, while they (the preachers are living a life of luxury spending the money their suckers send to them).

III. 3rd, the church has a DIVINE PURPOSE.

A. Obviously, one purpose is to save the souls of the lost, and make them children of God with a view to eternal life in heaven. Mark 16:15-16

1. On Pentecost day, Peter proclaimed the first recorded sermon of the gospel age.
 - a. He introduced his sermon by quoting from the book of Joel in the Old Testament.
 - 1) Joel referred to events beginning in "the last days." Acts 2:17; cf Heb. 1:1
 - 2) Joel's prophecy ended with the word "saved." Acts 2:21
 - b. Peter then began talking about the Savior whom God sent to save. v. 22

- c. In verses 23-35, Peter quotes from the Psalms to prove the death, burial, resurrection, ascension and coronation of Jesus at God's right hand in heaven.
- d. There, Jesus became the Lord and Christ. v. 36
- 2. The listeners responded to the sermon, which had convicted them of sin.
 - a. They asked what they should do. v. 37
 - b. Peter told them what they needed to do, as based on Christ's authority.
 - 1) They were to repent of sins and be baptized. v. 38
 - 2) The purpose of these acts was to obtain remission of sins.
 - c. Some 3,000 were obedient, and were added to the church as saved people. vv. 41, 47

B. Another purpose would be to teach and edify those who have been saved. Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:10-14; 1 Cor. 14:19, 26B; Col. 3:16

C. A continuing purpose is to worship regularly as the scripture directs.

- 1. One regular act of worship is to commune in the **Lord's Supper**. Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:16
- 2. Another act of worship involves the **preaching** and **edification** of the word of God. Acts 20:7; 20:32
- 3. Yet another act of worship to God is that of **prayer**. Acts 2:42; 12:5
- 4. Still another action of worship is that of **giving** from the heart to further the work of God. 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7
- 5. A final action of worship is that of **singing praises** to the Lord. Eph. 5:19

CONCLUSION

I. If we do all the Lord wants us to do, we will be honoring and glorifying God.

- A. While on earth, the church is to **BE** the church, fulfilling God's work on earth to the glory of God.
- B. Then, in the resurrection day, ALL the church (those who have died and now raised from the dead, along with all righteous saints, great praise and glory will be given to the Christ of our salvation. 1 Cor. 15:23-24; Eph. 5:27
 - 1. The glorious church will have maintained true doctrine and worship.
 - 2. The glorious church will be made up of those who have followed Christ's teaching for proper worship and godly living.

II. Are you a member of the Lord's church?

- A. Don't you want to be in that glorious church when it presented to the Lord?
- B. If so, you need to become a Christian by confessing your faith in the Lord, repenting of all sins, and be immersed in water for the remission of sins, and live faithfully to the Lord each and every day of your life.
- C. If you are subject to the Lord's invitation, we invite you to respond, as together we stand and sing.

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