

A GLORIOUS CHURCH

Int.

1. Aim: To show the things a church must have in order to be glorious in God's sight.
2. Eph. 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 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."
 - a. The love of Christ for the church is mentioned to illustrate the love of a husband for his wife
 - b. Jesus loved the church enough to sanctify it !
 - c. We are sanctified by baptism
 - d. He sanctified the church to present it glorious
 - i. Not a spot or wrinkle
 - (1) Spot = indiscretion of youth
 - (2) Wrinkle - carelessness or decay of age
 - ii. But holy and without blemish
 - e. Christ loved the church and died for it not only to separate it from sin but to perfect it also.
3. It is not the building that is glorious
4. **Glorious** - ● Held in good or great esteem ● Of high repute, splendid ● Free from sin
5. These verses indicate that God expects the church to be separated from the world and to be a working force for Good
6. To be a glorious church we must not only stop doing that which is bad, but we must also start doing that which is good. A church that is a glorious church is one that is....

Discussion

I. GODLY

- A. **Titus 2:11-12** "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"

1. Salvation to all men
2. Deny ungodliness, we should live soberly, righteously, Godly

- B. **I Pet. 1:3** "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"

1. All things that pertain unto life and godliness
2. We must try to be like God in character to be godly

- C. A glorious church must have a Godly attitude

1. Human nature - mistreat those who mistreat you

God's nature - return good for evil - 1 Thes. 5:15 Mt. 5:38-39

2. Human nature - be selfish

God's nature - give to others generously - Phil. 2:3-4 "[Let] nothing [be done]

through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

II. LABOURS

A. Scriptures

1. Rom. 16:12 "Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord."
2. Rev. 2:2 "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:"

B. The work of the church is not conducting services

1. Acts 6:1-4 - this is an example of church work
2. Acts 8:4 - An example of the church working
3. Matt. 25:31-40 - the people on the right hand of God were those who had laboured for Him
4. The church that is glorious is one that labours

III. OVERCOMING

A. Means - conquer evil with Good - victory over world or sin

B. Scriptures

1. Rom. 12:21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."
2. 1 John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith."
3. Rev. 2:7 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

C. Overcoming means

1. Romans - To cause an enemy to repent of the wrong he has done by observing your good
2. John - victory over sin - continual resisting
3. Rev. - hold fast faith even unto the point of death

D. To be glorious we as a church must overcome evil not be overcome by evil.

IV. READY

A. Scriptures

1. Acts 21:13 "Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
2. Tit. 3:1 "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,"
3. Rom. 1:14-15 "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. 15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

B. Meaning of "Ready"

1. Titus - of persons, ready, prepared, to do something
2. Romans - willing, ready, anxious

C. Ready to eat - anxious - only lack the opportunity

D. The glorious church is one that is ready to every good work.

V. INSTRUCTING

A. Scriptures

1. II Tim. 3:16-17 "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."
2. John 6:45 "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."
3. I sa. 54:13 "And all thy children [shall be] taught of the LORD; and great [shall be] the peace of thy children."

B. Definitions

1. Instructions - whatever cultivates the soul, especially by correcting mistakes and curbing the passions. Instruction which aims at the increase of virtue.
2. Taught, instructed
3. Heb. 10:16 "This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;"

C. God's glorious church is one that teaches and instructs in the way of righteousness

1. Through Bible classes
2. Daily discussions with neighbors and friends
3. Daily instruction in the homes of people

VI. OBSERVING

A. Scriptures

1. Matt. 28:20 Matt. 7:21
2. Jas. 1:22 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."
3. Rev. 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

B. Observe

1. To attend to carefully, take care of
2. T.E.V. - "obey everything"

C. One command the church does not observe is the command of church discipline

D. A glorious church is one that obeys all the commandments of God.

VII. UNITED

A. Scriptures

1. Acts 2:44 "And all that believed were together, and had all things common;"
2. Acts 4:32 "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any [of them] that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."
3. 1 Cor. 1:10 "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

B. No Divisions

1. Schismata Division, dissension
2. 1 Cor. 12:25 "That there should be no schism in the body; but [that] the members should have the same care one for another."
3. Division destroys the church

C. A glorious church is a united church

VIII. SEPARATE

A. Scriptures

1. II Cor. 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,"
2. To mark off from others by boundaries, to limit, to separate
3. John 17:15 "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

B. A glorious church is marked off from the world

1. We love God - the world does not
2. We put God first - the world does not
3. We serve God - the world serves Satan
4. Heb. 7:26 "For such an high priest became us, [who is] holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;"
5. To divide, part, put assunder, to separate one's self from

C. This church must be separate from the world if it is to be a glorious church

Conclusion

1. There are 8 parts of this glorious church
 - a. There are 8 notes to a chord
 - b. It would not be complete without all 8 of them
 - c. All of these are necessary for the church to be a glorious church
2. If this church is to be a glorious each Christian who is a member must examine his life and make sure he is without spot or wrinkle.
3. Eph. 5:27 "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."
 - a. Spot = defect, disgrace
 - b. Holy = pure, morally blameless
4. We must be holy and without blemish
5. Are you a Glorious Christian? If not then this church is not glorious
6. A glorious church must have beautiful Christians, not a beautiful building.

Godly Labours Overcoming Ready Instructing observing United

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