

THE KIND OF CHURCH GOD WANTS (Part 1)

Ephesians 5:23-27

1

Introduction

Jesus promised He would build **His** church

- Matthew 16:18 – “I will build **my** church”
- Mark 9:1 – “... the kingdom of God ...”
- Acts 1:6-8 – “will you at this time restore ...”
- Acts 2:1-4 – “... filled with the Holy Spirit ...”
- He built **it** based on the truth of Peter’s confession
 - Matthew 16:16 – “You are the Christ”
- He declared His power to build **it**
 - Matthew 16:18 – “Hades shall not prevail ...”
- His death didn’t prevent Him from building **His** church
 - Acts 2:24-27 – “... he is at my right hand ...”

2

Introduction

- His resurrection proved He was the Son of God
 - Romans 1:4 – “... by his resurrection”
 - I Peter 1:3 – “through the resurrection”
 - I Peter 3:18-21 – “through the resurrection”
- The gospel calls the lost to salvation
 - II Thessalonians 2:14 – “through our gospel”
- Jesus adds to His church those who are saved when they receive His word and then abide in His teaching
 - Acts 2:41-47 – “those who were being saved”

3

Introduction

- The Lord’s church is a very important institution
 - Acts 20:28 – “... with his own blood”
 - Ephesians 5:25 – “as Christ loved ...”
- Most people are pleased with the church to which they belong
- The most important question however is, “Is God pleased with it?”
- If God is not pleased, all hopes of salvation are in vain
 - Micah 6:6-8 – “Will the Lord be pleased”

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The Seven Churches of Asia

Ephesus

- Revelation 2:4 – “you have abandoned”

Smyrna

- Revelation 2:10 – “Do not fear ... Be faithful unto death”

Pergamum

- Revelation 2:14 – “I have a few things against you”

Thyatira

- Revelation 2:20 – “I have this against you”

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The Seven Churches of Asia

Sardis

- Revelation 3:1-2 – “you are dead ... I have not found your works complete”

Philadelphia

- Revelation 3:8-10 – “I know your works ... you have kept my word about patient endurance”

Laodicea

- Revelation 3:14 – “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot”

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God Wants A Church

That honors Christ as builder

- The Old Testament foretold of a King ruling over an everlasting Kingdom
 - Daniel 2:44 – "... it shall stand forever"
 - Psalms 2:6-7 – "I have set my King on Zion"
 - Psalms 110:1-4 – "Rule in the midst of your enemies"
 - Isaiah 9:6-7 – "... the government shall be upon his shoulder"

That Jesus built

- Matthew 16:18 – "... I will build my church"
- cf. Psalms 127:1 – "Unless the Lord builds the house"

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God Wants A Church

That Jesus "pitched," the "true tabernacle"

- Hebrews 8:1-2 – "the Lord pitched, not man" (ASV)
- Hebrews 3:3-4 – "... the builder of all things is God"
- cf. Matthew 15:13 – "... will be rooted up"

That does not honor any other man

- Not John the Baptist
 - John 3:28-30 – "I am not the Christ"
- Not Peter the apostle
 - Acts 10:25-26 – "I too am a man"
- Not angels
 - Revelation 22:6-9 – "Worship God"

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God Wants A Church

That honors Christ as the head

- Christ has **all** authority
 - Matthew 28:18 – "All authority ..."
 - This authority is not shared with anyone else in heaven or on earth
- Christ is the one and only head of the church
 - Ephesians 1:22-23 – "head over all things"
 - Ephesians 5:23 – "Christ is the head ..."
 - Colossians 1:18 – "... head of the body"
- The Pope claims to be the earthly head of the church
 - Colossians 3:1-2 – "where Christ is ... not on things that are on earth"

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God Wants A Church

That is guided only by the Bible

- The Scriptures are inspired by God and are all sufficient
 - II Timothy 3:10-17 – "continue in what you have learned ... All Scripture"
 - II Peter 1:3 – "all things that pertain to life and godliness"
- The scriptures are perfect
 - Psalms 19:7-11 – "The law of the Lord ..."
- We must not tamper with God's word
 - Deuteronomy 4:2 – "You shall not add ..."
 - Revelation 22:18-19 – "I warn everyone"
 - Galatians 1:6-7 – "let him be accursed"
 - Galatians 5:7-10 – "will bear the penalty"

10

The Way To Obey God

- Hear the Word of God
 - James 1:21 – "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
- Believe the Gospel message
 - Hebrews 11:6 – "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."
- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 – "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"

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The Way To Obey God

- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - Romans 10:9-10 – "... if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"
- Be immersed in water
 - Acts 2:38 – "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"
- Remain faithful
 - Hebrews 3:12-14 – "... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end"

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