

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

by Doctor Walter L. Wilson

Copyright © 1939

by

edited for 3BMB by Baptist Bible Believer in the Spirit of the Colportage Ministry of a century ago

~ out-of-print and in the public domain ~

THE CHURCH IN EPHESIANS

There are some things about the Church that are not found in this Book. Let us consider first what the Church is not, and then what the Church is.

The Church is not a beautiful, frescoed casket of the dead or a flower bedecked grace of the lost. It is the home of the redeemed.

It is not a field of religious sport. (That belongs to the world.) The Church is a place of holy activity for CHRIST.

It is not a lecture hall in which to discuss popular subjects, national and international problems. It is a place where the precious gospel is preached.

It is not a social service enterprise, dishing out soap, soup, and sunshine. It is a place to make known the beauties of the LORD JESUS and to feed the people on the BREAD of LIFE.

It is not a dispensary for human ailments, though it contains the sweetest and best medicine for every soul.

It is not a society for the prevention of earth's ills. Our LORD has never told us to clean up the pig pen. Our business is to change pigs into sheep.

The Church is not a club for fraternal fellowship, though we have in it the sweetest fellowship.

It is not an association for cleaning up the city, though the preaching of the gospel message will clean up every individual that believes. The Church is not in the business of making the world better by reform or polishing the rails of a sinking ship.

None of these things are found in the Book of Ephesians, but we do find some wonderful things about the Church in this Book.

We find that:

Its origin is the grandest;

its architecture is the greatest;
its antiquity is the oldest;
its foundation is the deepest;
its material is the finest;
its extent is the widest;
its position is the loftiest;
its builder is the wisest;
its name is the loveliest;
its honor is the highest;
its security is the safest;
its headship is the mightiest;
its priest is the kindest;
its worship is the purest;
its worshippers are the holiest;
its prayers are the truest;
its praises are the sweetest;
its music is the quietest;
its service is the longest;
its doctrine is the simplest;
its unity is the strongest; and
its devotion is for eternity.

The Church of GOD cannot be compared with any other organization in the world, but it may be contrasted with every other religious organization. CHRIST shed His blood to save her, to wash her, to sanctify her, to cleanse her and to purify her. He has made her the most beautiful of all and she is to dwell with Him forever. This is not true of any other organization in the world.

The Church has six particular aspects in the Book of Ephesians:

Chapter 1. "The church which is His body." His body is a body for service. It is comparable to the human body in which every member has life. Not any part of it is dead. The most deadly poison known to man is the poison from a dead body. Death results in a few hours when infection from a dead body occurs.

The true Church is a body of human beings who have eternal life. Everyone saved by grace is a member of that body called the Church of the living GOD. There isn't any spiritual service for a dead soul in GOD's Church. Be sure that all who are in the church organization have life or they will wreck the body. In the Church, each person has his work to do, just as in the body each member has its own particular function. My hand serves my whole body. My finger is a good finger. I can operate with it, deliver babies with it, play the piano with it, but if I put my finger in my eye, neither are any good. It is of no use when out of place. In the church we are only of use when we serve where we can. Let the man preach who can preach. Let the person teach who can teach. Let the person play the piano that can play. Let the person sing who can sing. Each one has his proper place and can serve acceptably when in that place. Trouble usually results from the dead people in the living organization. Beloved, find out whether they belong to CHRIST before you take them into the organization. The Church is a living body for JESUS and only those who have been born again have life.

Chapter 2. The church is a temple for worship (verse 21). It is compared to a "building fitly framed together." That which characterizes the body is life. That which characterizes the temple is solidity. The believers are living stones. Each stone is attached to each other stone and firmly fixed. So in the Church of GOD we are united to each other. We bear each other's sorrows and burdens. We lift the load. We dry the tears. We are "fitly framed together unto an holy temple in the LORD." Just as each member of the physical body is joined to the body, so is each believer joined to CHRIST.

Isn't it wonderful that we are fastened together? We do not need zippers to hold us together. When I leave for the office, I do not need to stop to fasten on my ear, my hand or my foot. They go right along with me. Think of GOD's wonderful care over the physical body. He gives grease in the 264 joints of the body. Think how much time it would take if we had to oil all our joints each morning. GOD has so built the human body that each member is fitly joined together and each member has its work to perform. The human body is fearfully and wonderfully made, and is just a picture of the Church.

There are folks in GOD's great church to do everything that has to be done. All the Church should have all the gifts of GOD. Each member of the body has some gift. Each member of the body should know what he believes and why he believes it. He should know the great fundamental facts of the faith so that no wind of doctrine can carry him astray. He should be rooted and grounded in CHRIST. He is there for a job and there to do it well. In Psalm 1, we read about the godly man, "He is like a tree planted by the river", not in the river. We are by the river. The soil is the Word of GOD. The river is the SPIRIT of GOD. We are resting on His Word and that makes us solid, "lively stones" as Peter tells us. We should love each other and care for each other because we are knit together in indissoluble bonds.

~ end of chapter 5 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
