

Prayer Study #70

THE CHURCH

“The Ekklesia...the called out ones”

And I say unto you, that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

State of the Western Christian Church

“We are so utterly ordinary, so commonplace, while we profess to know a Power the 20th century does not reckon with. But we are harmless and therefore unharmed. We are spiritual pacifists, non-militants, conscientious objectors in this battle to the death with principalities and powers in high places....We are ‘sideliners’-coaching and criticizing the real wrestlers while content to sit by and leave the enemies of God unchallenged. The world cannot hate us-we are too much like its own. Oh that God would make us dangerous!” Jim Elliot at age 21 in a letter he wrote to his parents

“It is widely held that the battle of the century will be between Marxism, Islam, and Third World Christianity. Western Christianity is considered too weak and ineffective to contribute anything significant to this universal struggle.” David Watson, an Anglican priest, 1982

“People shop for churches like they shop for automobiles or groceries. People want something that fills their needs. We have missed the boat because we think Christianity is about us. It is not about us. It is about God and His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. He has chosen Christians to play a significant role in showing the world what His kingdom looks like. Western Christianity has retreated from the battle for the souls of people into the pursuit of personal comfort.” Bobby Welch, pastor First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Florida 2004

What the Word says about the Church

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord[the local church]shall flourish in the courts of the our God. Psalm 92:13

...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2:47b

And God hath set some in the church: first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; after that miracles; then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 1st Corinthians 12:28

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word; 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. Ephesians 5:25-27

He said unto them, "But whom say you that I am?" And Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered and said unto him, "Blessed are thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto you, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto you, that you are Peter, and upon this rock [an immovable stone, i.e. Christ the speaker, who was the Word and became flesh and dwelt among us-John 1] I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16: 15-18

Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5) FROM DAKE'S STUDY BIBLE

1. Christ is Head of the church(5:23)
2. Christ is Savior of it(5:23)
3. The church must be subject to Christ in all things(5:24)
4. Christ gave Himself for it(5:25)
5. Christ sanctifies the church with the washing of the Word(5:26)
6. Christ cleanses the church with the washing by the Word(5:26)
7. Christ will receive the church to Himself(5:27)
8. Christ is making the church glorious(5:27)
9. Christ is making it spotless(5:27)
10. Christ is making it perfect(5:27)
11. Christ is making it holy(5:27)
12. Christ is making it faultless(5:27)
13. Christ nourishes it(cares for, brings up protects it)(5:29)
14. Christ cherishes the church(fosters, warms in His bosom)(5:29)
15. The church is part of Christ(5:30-32)
16. The church is one with Christ(5:30-32)

Members and the Church(Ephesians 4 & 5)FROM DAKE'S STUDY BIBLE

1. Learn Christ(4:20)
2. Hear and be taught by Christ(4:21)
3. Put off the old man(4:22)
4. Be renewed in mind attitude(4:23)
5. Put on the new man(4:24)
6. Put away lying, and speak truth(4:25)
7. Be angry without sinning(4:26)
8. Give no place to the devil(4:27)
9. Quit stealing(4:28)
10. Work for a living(4:28)
11. Give to the poor and needy(4:28)
12. Use the tongue right(4:29)
13. Grieve not the Holy Spirit(4:30)
14. Put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, malice(4:31)
15. Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving as Christ is(4:32)
16. Be followers of God(5:1)
17. Walk in love as Christ did(5:2)
18. Let not fornication, homosexuality, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, and sexual lust jesting be once named among you as becometh saints(5:3-4)