BIBLE TALK

This week the question is:***What does the church mean to God?***

Let me begin by asking another question:Why are some undevoted / uninterested in the church?

* Many will not come and investigate.
* Many baptized, but quit.
* Many lukewarm – don’t come faithfully.

What causes this?

One cause is simply that people don’t understand what the church is.

* **They think the church is a building** – they seek after the finest.
* **Think the church is “one among many”** – seek out their favorite.
* **View the church as something you need in emergency** – parachute.

If we could see church as God sees it, people would flock to it.People would be devout.

Let’s try to see God’s viewpoint.

# THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD

Do you realize:**The church was in God’s eternal plans?**That’s right.Listen carefully:

* God made the world so He could make the church!
* He created man so He could make the church!
* He destroyed world with flood, but saved Noah so He could have church!
* He raised up Israel and protected her so He could have church!
* Brought John into world to prepare for the arrival of church.
* Brought Jesus into world to die for church.
* He loves the church.
* He cares for the church.
* The church is His constant love and concern.

Ephesians 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

5 having **predestined us** to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

***⇓***

The church is in God’s eternal plans!

Devil tried to keep God from fulfilling those plans.

* He tried to destroy baby Jesus so there would be no church (cf. Rev 12:1-4)
* He crucified Jesus thinking he could stop it (1 Cor 2:8).

Matthew 16:18

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Nothing could stop God from fulfilling His plans.

**EMPHASIZE**:God’s plans were to have a church and nothing was going to stop Him.

# OT TABERNACLE / TEMPLE

To help men understand His plans and love for the church, God had Moses erect a tabernacle in wilderness.

* This tabernacle was built out of finest material Israel had.
* Was built by craftsmen whose hands were guided by Holy Spirit (Ex 31:1-3).
* Was erected in very center of camp – emphasizing its importance – providing the most protection.

This tabernacle was only temporary – forerunner of the temple in Jer.But God didn’t want to wait until people got settled in Canaan.

God chose Solomon to build temple.

David made abundant preparations:

* Gold – 270 MT (1 Ch 29:4-7)
* Silver – 585 MT
* Bronze – 610 MT
* Iron – 3450 MT
* Precious stones (jewels) (1 Ch 29:2)

Took Solomon 7 years to build temple (1 Kings 6:38).

* 30,000 wood cutters (1 Kings 5:13-16)
* 70,000 burden bearers
* 80,000 stone cutters
* 3,300 overseers
* **183,300 Total**

After it was built, the glory of God filled the temple and the priests could not stay inside (1 Kings 8:10-11).

**The amazing thing**:**God did not dwell in that temple!**

Acts 7:47-48

47 … Solomon built Him a house.

48 “However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says:

Acts 17:24

24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

**Q**:Why all this trouble / expense for a temple that God wouldn’t even dwell in?

**A**:Because the temple was a symbol of the church!

Hebrews 8

2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

5 who serve **the copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Well … thanks for listening to our message this week.We invite you to visit our web site [**www.WillOfTheLord.com**](http://www.WillOfTheLord.com)**.**There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.