
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?

R: 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. 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***.