

THE LIFE *and* TIMES of JESUS CHRIST

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Christ and the Church”

A Unique Relationship Between Jesus and His Bride

THE THEME OF THIS SERIES:

Colossians 2:9

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in bodily form”

TOPICAL SUBJECT REFERENCED UNDER:

The Church, Jesus the Bridegroom, Fellowship

Throughout History among both Christian and Non Christian alike, misunderstandings have existed about the Church. Is it an institution, is it a physical structure. is it a way of thinking...

the Bible makes clear what the church really is

It is a Living, Breathing, Extension of the Life of God on Earth

The Church

Church grk 1577 ekklesia (ek-klay-see'-ah);
to be called out of one group and placed into another. a meeting, a congregation. a community. The members of the church both on earth and in heaven.

In Our Thinking, We Must Be Careful That We Do Not Americanize Or Westernize Or Easternize The Church of Jesus Christ.

It Is a Supernatural,

Universal Fellowship made up of Local Believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, Those who Put Their Trust in Him

What Was An Old Testament Mystery

1 Peter 1:10-11

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

Became A New Testament Reality

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

A Mysterious Reality

Isaiah 11:10

"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the Nations; for the Gentiles shall seek Him...

Ephesians 2:11-14

Remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called the Uncircumcision (gentile) by what is called the Circumcision (jew) made in the flesh by hands--12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 **But now in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, (Jew & Gentile) and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

the concept of the "Called Out Ones" is of a divine origin,
the concept requires a departure from what is seen...

the concept is a mystery

Romans 11:25

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of **this mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**

This is Intense

Romans 16:25-26

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according **to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began** 26 but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, -- **(THE MYSTERY IS THE ANTI-HELL DEVISE)**

1.) Christ, the Church and History

The Three (3) Divisions of (Believers) Saints in History

#1

The Old Testament Saints

#3

The Tribulation Saints

#2

Between them Both God Had Engineered The Salvation of What The Bible Calls The Bride of Christ – The Church

Act One:

Being Born Again

is the conversion of the sinner lost condition into the redeemed position of becoming a child of God

John 20:19-22

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 Now when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Paul Taught This...

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Act Two:

The Birth of the Church

was when the "Born Again Ones" converted sinners, were visited by the Holy Spirit with power to live the Christian life!!!

Acts 1:6-8

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4

Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Church –
From Pentecost to the Rapture

Because Jesus Loves His Church

How Could There Even Be a Church?

a.) *He **Made** the Ultimate Commitment*

Matthew 1:19-23

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Is. 7:14)

Luke 2:29-31

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

Matthew 26:26-28

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

He Became Both as The Lamb of God and the Son of Man
Forever! – For All Eternity!!!

b.) *He Paid an Impossible Debt*

Titus 2:14

Who **gave himself** for us, that he might **redeem** us from **all iniquity**, and purify unto himself a peculiar (*unique*) people, zealous of good works.

Prior to You Coming to Christ
Your Sin-O-Meter was Running
(Imparting)

2 Corinthians 5:19

that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not imputing** their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Colossians 2:13-14

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

Ephesians 2:14-15

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full

Because Jesus Loves His Church

c.) *He Gave a Sure Guarantee*

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

2 Corinthians 6:16

And what agreement (togetherness) has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

John 16:7

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

2.) Christ and the Church Presently

Because Jesus Loves His Church

a.) *Jesus Comforts the Church*

by coming into the world,
He assumed a position with the church for all eternity

b.) *Jesus Directs the Church*

throughout the Bible

John 16:13-14

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

US News and World Report -- October 25, 1999

"Is The Bible True"

Yigael Yadin

Israeli archaeologist stated "We went about discovering the gates of Solomon with the Bible in one hand and a spade in the other hand"

Recent Finds Have Produced

- Inscriptions of David Being King and Warrior of Israel
- an engraved monument states that Pontius Pilate was Prefect over Judea
- And That Caiaphas was the High in Jerusalem during the time of Christ

Because Jesus Loves His Church

c.) *Jesus Promotes the Church*

Ephesians 3:3-6

by revelation God made known to me the mystery 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 (*the mystery*) - that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

What a Gospel – He Promotes Us

Ephesians 5:23-26

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, :27 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.... 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

3.) Christ, The Church and the Future

The Bride of Christ – The Church
has an all together unique position in heaven from all others

Revelation 19:6-9

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"

#1

Jesus, not the Father, has been preparing a Dwelling Place for the
church in Heaven
(John 14:1-3)

#2

She, The Church, will be married to Jesus Himself in Heaven
(Ephesians 5:27)
(but what about my husband or wife?)

#3

She will return bodily to earth with Jesus to establish the earth
reign of Messiah from Jerusalem
(Revelation 19:11-16)

Because Jesus Loves His Church

a.) *We've been **Designed** to Serve*

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own peculiar (*unique*) people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Ephesians 3:8-10

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent **that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,**

Because Jesus Loves His Church

b.) *We've been **Ordained** with Power*

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...

(Let Em' Watch Us)

A "Forehead Attachment" Verse

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

(Let Em' Watch Us)

1 Corinthians 6:14-15

For God both raised up the Lord Jesus Christ and will also raise us up by His **power**.
Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?
(Jesus Knows How to Control His Members (feet, two, hands & heels))

c.) *We've been **Destined** for Glory*

Because Jesus Loves His Church

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Hebrews 12:22-23

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of **angels**, to the **general assembly** and **church** of the firstborn who are registered in heaven,

Because Jesus Loves His Church

4.) The One and Only True Church

a.) *It's **Founder** is Jesus Christ*

b.) *It's **Home Office** is not of this World*

1. It's Not in Rome, Italy - I've Been There, It's Not There!
2. It's Not in Jerusalem, Israel - I've Been There, It's Not There!
3. It's Not in Salt Lake City, Utah - I've Been There, It's Not There!
4. It's Not in Brooklyn, New York - I've Been There, It's Not There!

c.) *It's **Mission** is for you to Know*

ATTENTION

this morning you are either in the church or **you are out**

Acts 2:21

And it shall come to pass (?) that **whoever** calls on the name (take the surname) of the Lord shall be saved.'

SADLY

not all of you will make the right decision and live

John 3:17-18

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Ezekiel 33:11

"Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die,

Because Jesus Loves His Church

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

END