

Children of Light

Ephesians 5:8



You Were Darkness (Ephesians 5:8)

- Dead through trespasses & sins (Ephesians 2:1).
- Walked according to society (2:2).
- Walked as disobedient children (2:2).
- Doing the desires of the flesh and mind (2:3).
- Were by nature (habit) children of wrath (2:3).
- Separate from Christ (2:12).
- Alienated from the commonwealth of Israel (2:12).
- Strangers from the covenants of the promise (2:12).
- Having no hope (2:12).
- Without God in the world (2:12).

Why Spiritually Dead (Ephesians 2:1–3)

- Through your sins.
- Wherein ye once walked.
- According to course of the age.
- According to the prince of the powers of air (Satan)
- Spirit of disobedience.
- Fulfilled lusts of the flesh.
- *Doing* the desires of the flesh and of the mind.
- **Note:** The word “*nature*” simple means habit, “to bring forth, produce” (*W.E. Vine* p. 103, *J.H. Thayer* p.660).

Children of Light (Ephesians 5:8)

- **Same as:**
 - “Walking in the light” (1 John 1:7)
 - Fellowship with God
- **Involves:**
 - Keeping His commandments (1 John 2:3; 2 John 2:6)
 - Walking in truth, (2 John 4; 3 John 4).
 - Abiding in the doctrine of Christ, (2 John 9).
- **As we do what He directs us to do as His children, Jesus’ blood cleanses from all sins.**

The Peaceful Bond vs. Turmoil

- **Ephesians 4:2, 3**

- **Lowliness**
- **Meekness**
- **Longsuffering**
- **Forbearing**
- **Love**

- **Keeps Unity**

- **Proverbs 6:16, 17**

- **Proud Look**
- **Lying Tongue**
- **Shedding blood**
- **Wicked Imagination**
- **Mischief**

- **Sows Discord**

Text of Ephesians 4:17–32

“No longer walk as the Gentiles also walk, in the vanity of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God...who being past feeling gave themselves up to lasciviousness, ... **BUT YE DID NOT SO LEARN CHRIST**; if so be that ye heard him, and were taught in him...**PUT AWAY**, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit; and that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and **PUT ON** the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth...neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good...Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and railing, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.”

Children of Light Bear Fruit

- **Goodness:** Moral excellence in relationships with our fellowman.
- **Righteousness:** Acting in accordance with what is right in our relationship with God (Matthew 22:35-40, Romans 1:18).
- **Truth:** That which is true; attitude toward God's word (John 17:17).
- **Proving:** Judging what is well pleasing to the Lord.
- **Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. But rather even reprove them.**

Christ & the Church

- He is **Head** of the Church(5:23).
- The **Saviour** of the **Body** (5:23).
- The Church must be **subject** to Christ in **everything** (5:24).
- He **loved** the Church and **gave** Himself for it (5:25).
- He **sanctified** and **cleansed** it with the washing of water with the word (5:26).

Christ & the Church

- He will present the **Church** to Himself (5:27).
- The **Church** is His body (1:22, 23).
- He only has **one** body (4:4;2:16).
- It was planned in eternity and reflects God's **Wisdom** (3:10, 11).
- It reflects God's **Glor**y, and will do so forever and forever (3:20).
- His **dominion** would not be complete without it (1:22, 23).



God's Husbandry

1 Corinthians 3:9



Definition of Terms

- “Denotes tillage, cultivation, husbandry”
- “Where the local church is described under this metaphor (1 Corinthians 3:9), suggestive of diligent toil ...of the effects in spiritual fruitfulness...to till the ground, (Hebrews 6:7).”
- Suggests a place of: cultivation, toil, fruitfulness
- **NOT:** idleness, slothfulness or unprofitability. As members we are to **WORK!**

The Kingdom Is the Church

CHURCH	◀ The Same ▶	KINGDOM
Ephesians 1:22, 23	Head	Acts 17:7
1 Corinthians 15:1-4	Law	Acts 8:12
Ephesians 2:16-19	Subjects	Ephesians 2:16-19
Colossians 3:15	Territory	Hebrews 8:10-11

The Called Out Are Those That Are Ruled By Christ



Different Kinds of Hearers

- **Different Kinds of Hearers (Mt. 13:3-9)**

- Wayside hearer
- Rocky ground hearer
- Weeds and thorns hear
- Good soil hear

- **Application of the Parable (Mt. 13:10-23)**

- Evil One removes seed (19)
- Insufficient soil does not produce (21)
- Worldly cares & deceitful riches cause him to be unfruitful (22)
- Hears word, understands it, bears fruit (23)



Laborers in the Vineyard

- Matthew 20:1-16
- Workers agreed to work for a shilling a day.
 - Some went to work early
 - Some went to work at the 3rd hour
 - Some went to work at the 6th hour
 - Some went to work at the 9th hour
 - Some went to work at the 11th hour
- The Master paid all the same.



Matthew 25:14-30

○ The Talents

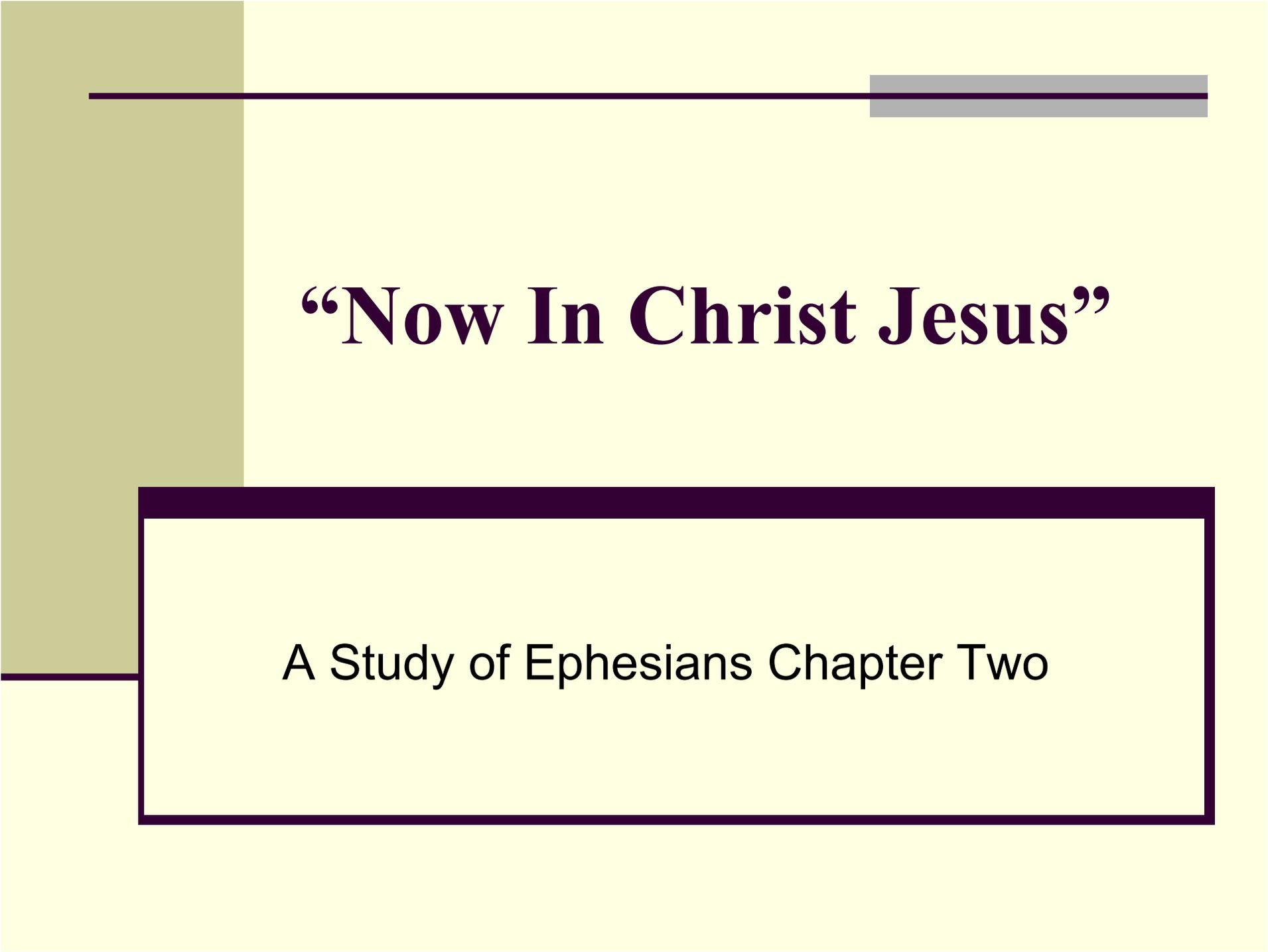
- One received five talents (15)
- Another received two talents (15)
- Another received one talent (15)

○ A Day of Reckoning

- The first gained five talents (20)
- The second gained two talents (22)
- The third gained none and returned one (24).

○ The Accounting

- To the first: "Well done faithful servant. Enter joy of the Lord" (21).
- To second: "Well done faithful servant, enter joy of the Lord" (23).
- To the last: "Wicked and slothful servant. Cast out. Weeping and wailing" (26, 30).



“Now In Christ Jesus”

A Study of Ephesians Chapter Two

Spiritually Dead (Ephesians 2:1–3)

- **Not because:**

- They were born depraved.
- Inherited Adam's guilt.

- **They were “dead” because:**

- Through your sins
- Wherein you once walked
- According to course of the age
- According to the prince of the powers of the air
- Spirit of disobedience
- Fulfilled lust of our flesh doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind

Hereditary Depravity Defined

- **Hereditary:**

- “Capable of being transmitted from parent to child”—*Webster*

- **Depravity:**

- “State of heart; wickedness; corruption of moral principles; destitution of holiness or good principles”—*Webster*

- **The Doctrine of Hereditary Depravity:**

- A wicked heart corrupt in moral principles and destitute of holiness and goodness has been transmitted from parent to child.

“Saved By Grace”

■ Salvation by Grace not at Issue:

- “*By grace have ye been saved*” (Ephesians 2:5, 8)
- “*Being justified freely by his grace*” (Romans 3:24)

■ The Issue Is:

- Are there any conditions that *must* be met in order to become a child of God?
- Are there any conditions that *must* be met in order to go to heaven?
- If yes, *how, when and where* are these conditions satisfied by the salvation seeker?

“The Gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8)

- **Question:** Is *faith* the “gift of God”?
- **Answer:**
 - “And that (*Kai touto*), Neuter, not feminine *taute*, and so refers not to *pistis* (feminine) or to *charis* (feminine also), but to the act of being saved by grace conditioned on faith on our part.” (A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, p. 525).
 - *Salvation is the gift* and not faith.

“True Grace of God” (1 Peter 5:12)

- **Grace unto You—** (1 Peter 1:2)
 - The “strangers” scattered throughout Asia Minor
- **Elect—**
 - Chosen (1:1)
 - According To Foreknowledge (1:2)
 - Sanctification Of Spirit (1:2)
 - Obedience (1:2)
 - Sprinkling Of Blood Of Jesus (1:2)
- **Stand “in” Grace when Chosen “by” Grace—**

“Grace to All Men” (Titus 2:11)

- **Question:** Will *all* men be saved?
- **Answer:** No (Matthew 7:13,14).
- **Therefore, grace must be conditional.**
 - Romans 5:1-2
 - Grace will not save *unbelievers* (John 8:24).
 - Belief alone will not save *disobedient* (Hebrews 5:8, 9).
 - God’s grace brings salvation to *obedient believers*.

Salvation by Grace (Ephesians 2:2–9)

- **Two Wills Involved:**

- Will of God
- Will of man

- **The Divine Side** (1 Timothy 2:3)

- Provisions for salvation (Hebrews 2:9; 2 Corinthians 5:14)
- Gospel Message (Romans 1:16; Acts 20:24; 26:15-18)

- **The Human Side** (Acts 2:40)

- Appropriate the provision (John 6:53-54; 1 Timothy 4:16)
- Faithful obedience to the Gospel (Romans 6:17, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

- **Not Saved Contrary to Either Will!**

“By Faith” in Context

■ “Being therefore justified by faith”

■ *Immediate context:*

- Rom. 3:27-4:12
- “Law of Faith” (3:27)
- Faith like Abraham (4:1-5; Romans 1:5)

■ *Remote Context:*

- Hebrews 11:3–4, 7–8
- Hebrews 11:8, Obedient Faith
- Heb 11:30, Walls of Jericho fell by faith *after* they were compassed about seven days.

■ **The faith that saves is the faith that obeys.**

Romans 3:27–28

- “Where then is the glorying? It is excluded. By what manner of law? Of Works? Nay: but by a law of faith. We reckon therefore that a man is justified by [*the law of; em*] faith apart from the works of the law.”

Romans 4:2–5

- “For if Abraham was justified by [*law of; em*] works, he hath whereof to glory; but not toward God. For what saith the scripture And Abraham believed God and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh, [*law of works;em*] the *reward is not reckoned as of grace but of debt.*”

The Contrast Continued

- **“Law Of Works”**

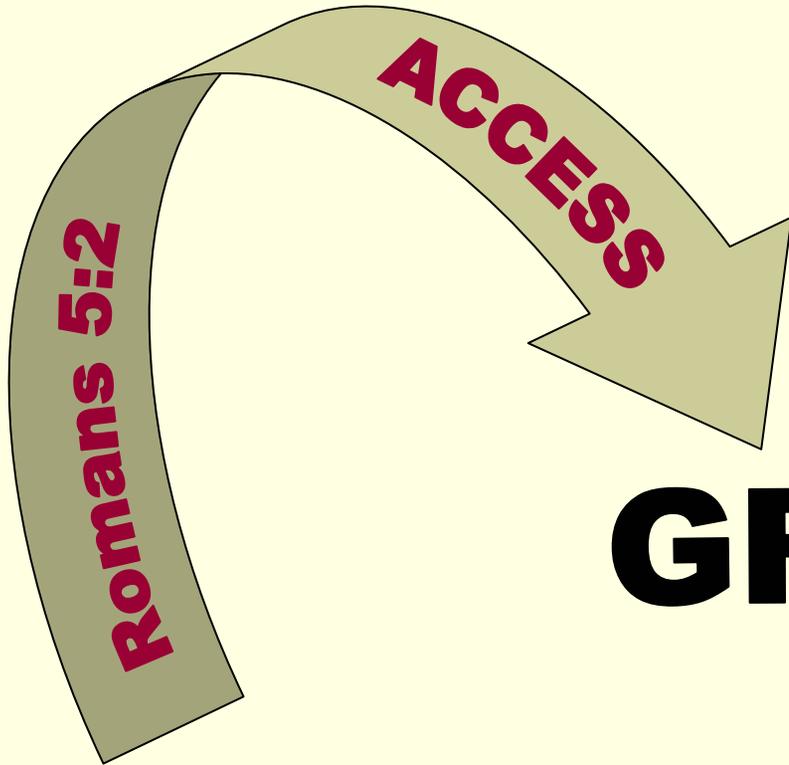
- Moral Perfection (Romans 10:5; Leviticus 18:5).
- Reward—Payment of Debt (Romans 4:4)

- **“Law Of Faith”**

- Faithful Obedience (4:11, 12)
- Reward—Reckoned of Grace (4:4, 5; 3:24).

- **Two Systems of Justification Contrasted**

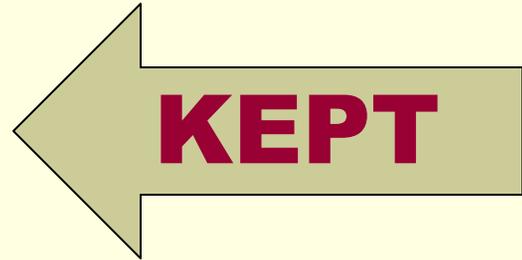
- Romans 3:27–4:12



FAITH

Titus 2:11

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GRACE



1 Peter 1:5



Galatians 5:4

Through Faith, but What Kind?

■ What Kind of Faith?

- *Dead* Faith? James 2:18
- *Barren* Faith? James 2:10
- *Perfected* Faith? James 2:22

■ Romans 5:2

- Access “By *faith* into grace”
- Saved by grace when that grace has been accessed by the kind of faith that Abraham had (Romans 4:1-10).

- **Hebrews 11:8**, “By faith Abraham, when he was called, *obeyed...*”

False Concepts of Divine Grace

- **The Universalist:**

- All men will be saved

- **The Calvinist:**

- “Wholly of Grace”
- *Note:* to avoid Universalism argues Limited Atonement.

- **Some Brethren:**

- Take care of error in life and teaching if one believes in the personal Deity of Christ.
- Opposers are “legalists!”

Preach the Gospel

Mark 16:15-16

The Gospel Of Christ (Galatians 1:11-12)

■ The Gospel of Christ

- Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

■ It is...

- Unique (Galatians 1:8-9)
- The same in all churches (1 Corinthians 4:17)
- Not just Red Letters (1 Corinthians 14:37; Matthew 10:40)
- Not just positive preaching (2 Timothy 4:2)

■ Remind of previous truth (2 Timothy 2:12)

■ Name & refute false teaching (1 Timothy 1:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:16-19; Acts 13:8-10)

■ Watch for of error (Acts 20:31; Ezekiel 33:7-9)

The Social Gospel, Another Gospel

- **A Message That Will Not Offend (Mt. 15:12)**
 - ❑ Just be positive, not negative
 - ❑ Just be for and not against
 - ❑ Teach the truth but leave others alone.
 - ❑ Do not preach about the Church of Christ:
 - ❑ Preach Christianity, not “Churchianity”
 - ❑ Preach Christ, Not the church
 - ❑ Don’t use too many scriptures
 - ❑ Definitely, do not call names of others
- **GOAL: Avoid Isolation**

Preaching: Man's Concept

- Preach the **MAN** not the **PLAN**.
- Preach the **TRUTH** and **LEAVE OTHERS ALONE**.
- Preach **CHRIST** not the **CHURCH**.
- Preach **CHRISTIANITY** not **CHURCHIANITY**.
- Preach what is **POSITIVE**, not what is **NEGATIVE**.
- Preach on what is **RIGHT**, not on what is **WRONG**.
- Preach the **GOSPEL** not **DOCTRINE**.
- Preach a message of **REDEMPTION**, not one of **CONDEMNATION**.

Effects of This Approach

- **Don't Preach About Church of Christ**

- ❑ Remove name from building
- ❑ Not use name in advertising
- ❑ Not use name in articles
- ❑ Not discuss "church" in home studies
- ❑ Meetings in rented building

- **Lessons Preached**

- ❑ Avoid controversy
- ❑ Acceptable in most pulpits
- ❑ Very little scripture

- **Emphasis**

- ❑ Messenger, not the message
-

His Dominion

- **“And put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:22,23)**
 - The context discussing His rule, or dominion, (1:20-21).
 - The word “fullness” is describes His dominion.
 - W/O the church, His dominion not complete.

God's Wisdom

- **“To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:10-11).**
 - ❑ Church, in fact, reflects God's wisdom
 - ❑ Church in God's Eternal purpose.
 - ❑ The purpose in Christ, involved the church.

God's Glory

- **“Unto him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations forever and forever” (Ephesians 3:21).**
 - ❑ **GLORY:** “Of the nature and acts of God in self manifestations, ie., what He essentially is and does, as exhibited in whatever way he reveals Himself...” (*W.E. Vine*).
 - ❑ God's glory seen in Christ and the Church.
 - ❑ The Church, in fact, reveals God's Glory.
 - ❑ The church will continue to reflect God's Glory forever and forever.

Loosed & Bound

- Going beyond & binding where God has not (Matthew 16:19; 2 John 9).
- These two actions have plagued the Lord's Church:
 - Ignoring what the Lord has said (e.g., not fleeing from idolatry (1Cor 10:14-32)).
 - Making a law where God has not (Acts 15:1-2; Galatians 2:1-2; cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4).

“Church”: How Used?

- **Local**
 - 1 Corinthians 1:1-2
 - **Functional**
 - **Joins**
 - Acts 9:26
 - **Man removes**
 - 1Corinthians 5
 - **Ends at death**
 - **Fellowship Horizontal**
 - **Organization**
 - Philippians 1:1
 - **Universal**
 - **Relationship**
 - **Lord Adds**
 - Acts 2:47
 - **God removes**
 - Mt. 13:49
 - **Continues**
 - Ephesians 5:27
 - **Fellowship Vertical**
 - 1 John 1:5-9
 - **No organization described**
-

Oversight: What Is Involved?

- **The Church**, every aspect of the work.
- Involves the **matters of judgment**.
- **Not in legislating** (James 4:12).
- Their area of direction is in **executing** that which God has legislated.
- They are **not just watchdogs** over the treasury. (I think some are of the opinion that their work begins and ends with money.)

Apostasy

- Began in *Organization* (Acts 20:29)
 - Centralized control
 - Human organizations
 - Receive & disburse funds
 - Oversight of the work of Church
 - Funds provided by churches and individuals
 - Missionary Society
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Recorder, Secretary
 - (*Otey-Briney Debate*, Sept. 14-18, 1908).

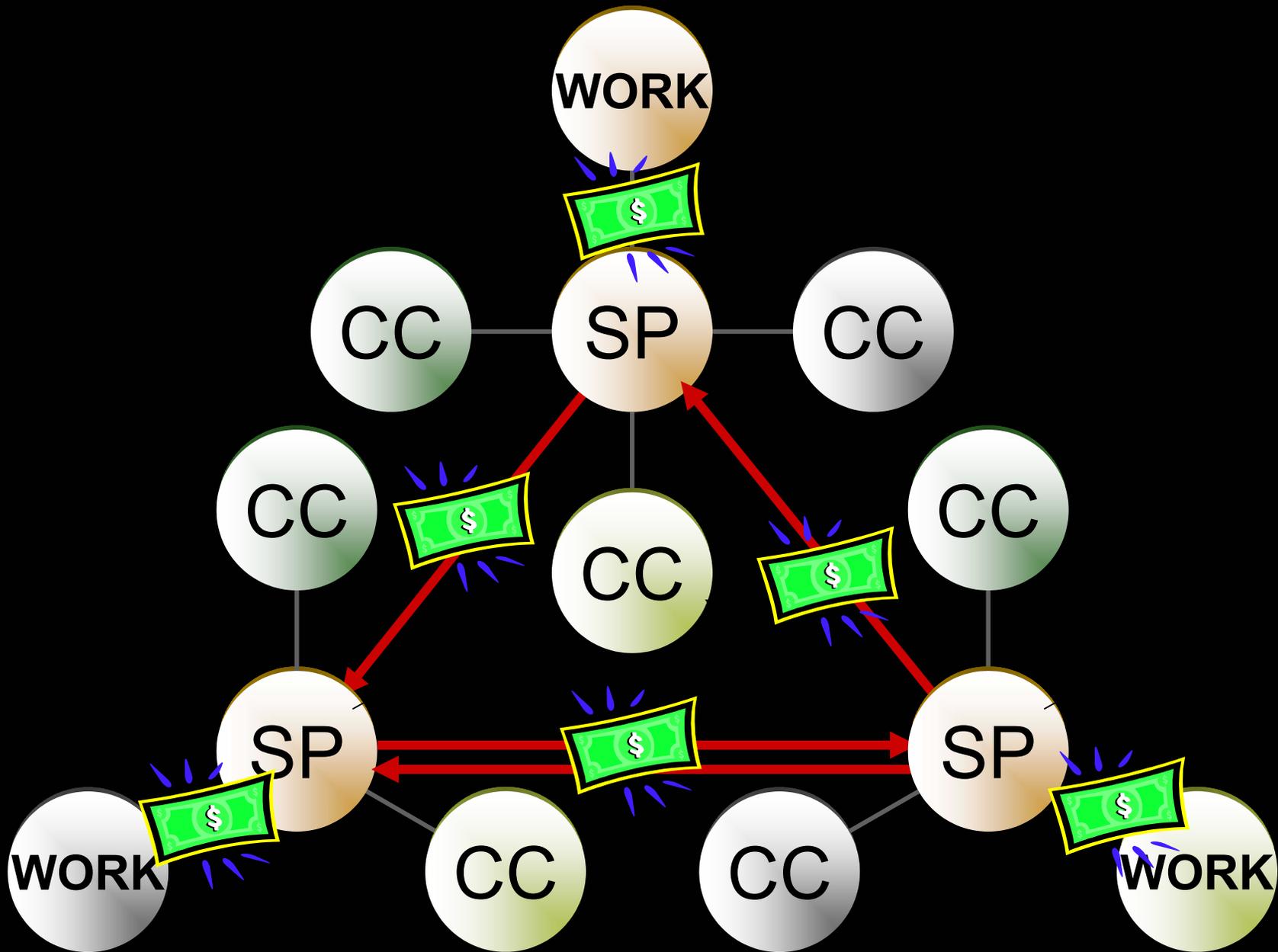
Missionary Society Unauthorized

- **The Missionary Society:**

- Where are its officers identified?
- Their qualification? Jurisdiction?

- **The Local Church:**

- Organization given (Phil. 1:1-2; Acts 14:23; Tit 1:5)
- The overseers identified (Acts 20:28; 1Peter 5:1)
- Qualifications indicated (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1: 5-9)
- Their jurisdiction stipulated, local church, where they are members (Acts 20:28; 1Peter 5:1,2).



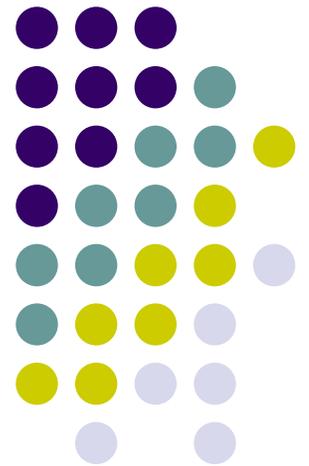
WHO IS SPENDING WHOSE MONEY? WHO IS DOING WHOSE WORK?

Institutionalism

- They all stand or fall together.
 - A Human Organization
 - Through Which The Universal Church May Act
- Regardless of what it is called:
 - Benevolent? Benevolent Homes
 - Evangelistic? Society/Sponsoring Church
 - Edification? College

Purchased by His Blood

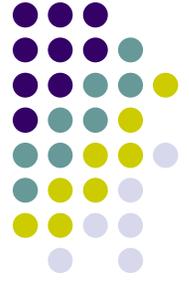
John 6:1-63



John 6:1-63



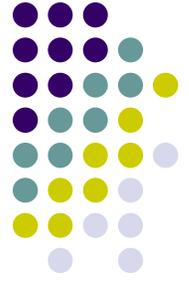
- Jesus performs miracles in Galilee where He fed 5000 from five loafs and two fish.
- **Vv. 1-15**, He is viewed as a Prophet and King,
 - vv 14-15, their priorities and motives exposed by Jesus
- **V. 26**, Major and minor pursuits
- **V. 27**, The Jews make inquiry
- **Vv. 28-40**, Jesus replies:
 - The Jews murmur (vv. 41,42)
 - Jesus answers in plain language (vv. 43-45).
 - His statement here and in v. 27 is key to understanding His later statement.



“Eat Flesh & Drink Blood”

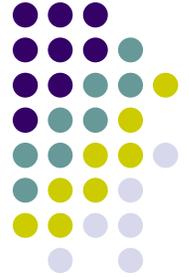
- John 6:53
- Cannibalism?
- Jesus said, “My flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed” (John 6:55b).
 - “Except, ye eat the flesh of Son of Man and drink his blood, ye have not life in yourselves” (6:53)
 - **EXCEPT:** *If and only if you* eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have life in yourselves. Whatever this means it is *very important!*

John 6:54-58



- Eat His flesh and drink His blood (v. 54)
 - “Hath eternal life”
- Is this the Bread & Fruit of the Vine?
 - I Corinthians 11:28-29
 - “damnation to self”
 - Obviously not talking about the same thing.

How Does the Blood of Christ Benefit Me?

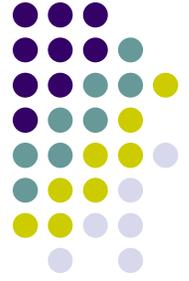


- **Ephesians 1:3-7**
- **Redemption According to W. E. Vine:**
 - “Ransom”
 - “Deliver from the guilt of sins”
 - The forgiveness of our trespasses”
- **This is according to the riches of his grace.**

Benefits of the Blood of Christ:



- **The benefits of His blood:**
 - Fellowship (John 6:56; 14:20; 1 John 4:13, 16)
 - Eternal Life (John 6:27, cf. vv. 40, 47, 54, 68).
- **In Hope (Titus 1:2, 3:7)**
 - Do not hope for present possessions (Romans 8:24, 25).
- **In Promise (1 John 2:24, 25)**
 - A lifestyle of glory forever , (John 6:51; Romans 2:6-10).
 - Will not be cast out (John 6:37; John 10:27-29).
- **In Christ (Ephesians 1:3, 4, 7)**



The Sum of Our Blessings

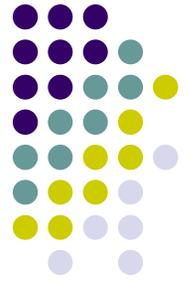
- **Redemption:** ransom, deliver from guilt of sins, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace; and promised to those in Christ.
- **Fellowship** with Christ, now in this life.
- **Eternal life** in hope and promise.
- Throughout eternity a lifestyle of **glory, honor, incorruption and peace** (Romans 2:6-10; John 6:37; 10:27-29).

The Church Purchased with His Blood

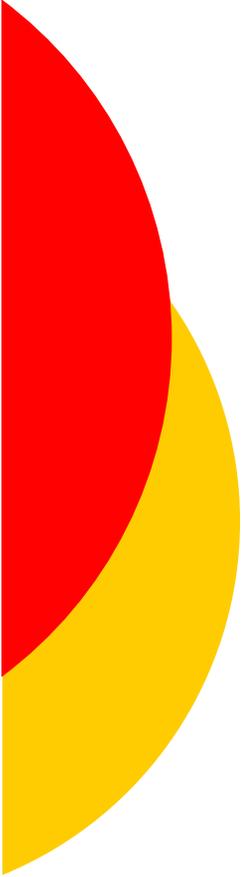


- **Acts 20:28**
- **Ephesians 5:25**
- **Consider the Nature of this Purchase:**
 - Medium of exchange, the blood of Christ
 - The purchase, the Church of the Lord.
 - Beneficiaries: Members benefit from His blood (1 Peter 1:17-19).
 - Must be in His Church.
 - Revelation 7:14

How to Become a Member of Christ's Church

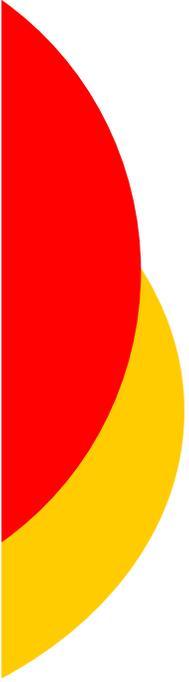


- **In principle** (John 6:44-45)
- **In detail** (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 - It is implied that one in Christ is in His body (Ephesians 1:22,23, Colossians 1:18, 24).
 - If in His body, in His church (Galatians 3:23-27).
 - Through the instruction of the gospel one is baptized into Christ.
 - Exemplified. Acts 2:36-47.



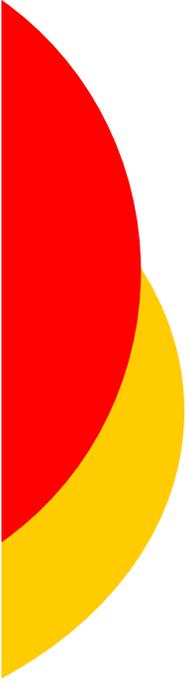
Reconciled in One Body

Ephesians 2:16



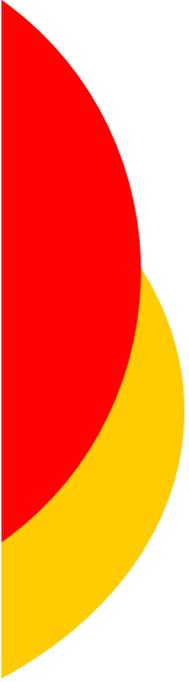
Reconciled in One Body

- **Some Important Questions:**
 - Why the need of reconciliation?
 - By what means is this accomplished?
 - Where does this occur?
 - Who is to be reconciled?
 - What is this one body?
- **The New Testament Will Give Us The Answer.**



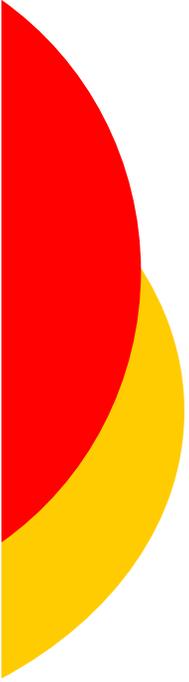
Recipients of the Blood Blessing

- **Romans 3:21-26**
- **“Through Faith in Christ” (3:21)**
 - Faith like Abraham (Romans 4:1-3;
 - By Faith he obeyed (Hebrews 11:8)
 - The faith Paul preached (Romans 1:5; 16:26)
- **“Through Faith in His Blood” (3:25)**
 - When they were “baptized into His death”, (Romans 5:8, 9; 6: 3; Acts 19:5).
 - When they were “reconciled unto God.”



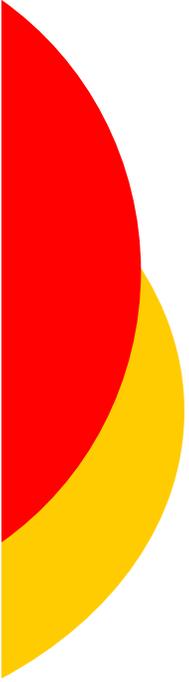
Ephesians 1:7-9

- In Christ We Have:
 - All spiritual blessings (1:3).
 - His chosen ones (1:4).
 - Redemption through blood (1:7).
 - The forgiveness of sins (1:7).
 - Salvation (2 Tim. 2:10).
 - Son-ship of God (Galatians 3:26).
- The Results of Reconciliation



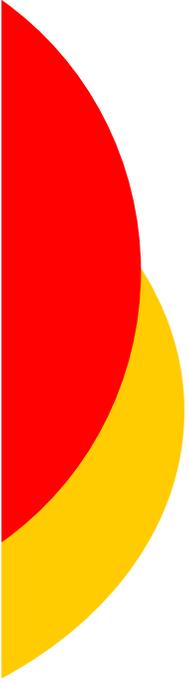
We Are Greatly Blessed

- **To Be In Christ Is To Be In His Body.**
 - In the body of Christ we have all of the afore mentioned blessings.
 - The Body of Christ is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).
 - Therefore, in the church we have all of the afore mentioned blessings.
- **Note:** The *act* that puts one into Christ puts him in the body, (Romans 6:3; 1 Corinthians 12:13).



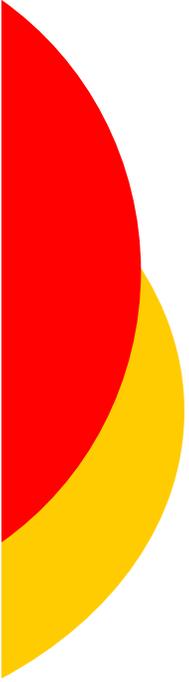
A Church & the Church

- “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth...” (1 Corinthians 1:2)
 - **A Local Church** -“*at Corinth*”
 - **Identified:** “Them which are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints
- “With all that call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (1:2)
 - **The Universal Church-** “*every place*”
 - **Sanctified - Saints- Saved**



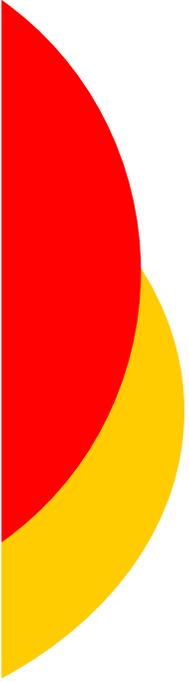
The Church Purchased with His Blood

- **Acts 20:28**
- **Ephesians 5:25**
- **The Nature of this Purchase:**
 - Medium of exchange, the blood of Christ.
 - The purchase, the Church of the Lord.
 - Beneficiaries: Members benefit from His blood (1 Peter 1:17-19).
 - Must be in His Church.
 - Revelation 7:14



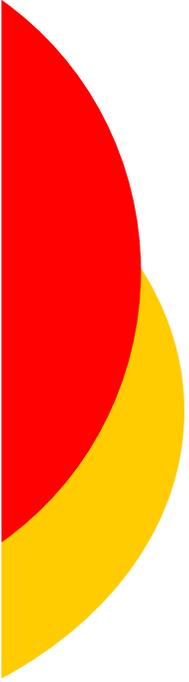
“One Church Is Just As Good As Another”

- Do You Really Believe That?
 - One that denies the immortal soul.
 - One that denies the all sufficiency of the Bible.
 - One that denies the fact of hell.
 - One that denies the Deity of Jesus.
 - One that denies inspiration of the Bible.
 - The homosexual church.
 - Satan’s church.
- Are all of these churches just as good as the church *YOU ARE A MEMBER OF?*



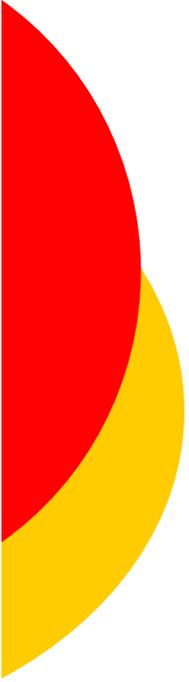
The Church Belongs to Christ

- He purposed to build (A) church, Ephesians 3:10-11.
- He promised to build (A) church, Matthew 16:18.
- He purchased (A) church, Acts 20:28.
- He built (A) church, Acts 2:47.
- **That Church Was And Is His Church!**



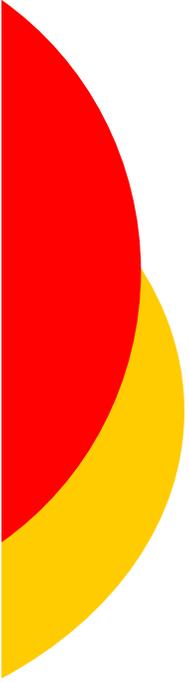
Will Only Members Of The Church Of Christ Be Saved?

- Some important questions:
 - Who is the Judge?
 - Where can I read his decision?
 - Who is the Saviour of the saved?
 - What does the Judge state about the church and the saved?
- You must ask and find the answer to these questions.



The Record Of The Judge

- Only *few* will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14; 22:14).
- *Many* will be lost (Matthew 7:22-23).
- Only those who believe (John 3:16) and obey Jesus (Hebrews 5:8-9).
- Unbelievers and disobedient will be lost (John 8:24, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.5).
- The saved are added to the church (Acts 2:47).
- Jesus will present the church to Himself (Ephesians 5:27).
- Jesus built *one* church (Ephesians 4:4).
- There is one and only one body, the church (Ephesians 1:23; 5:23; 1 Corinthians 12:20).



Does the Church of Christ Exist Today?

- The word of the Lord exists today. The **WORD** is the **SEED** that produces the church (Luke 8:11).
- That word (seed) abides forever (1 Peter 1:25). The **LIFE** of any thing that exists is in the seed that produces it.
- The Church of Christ consists of men and women who have obeyed the Lord.
- I believe I am a member of that Church, and you can be also.

Tend the Flock of God

1 Peter 5:1-3

Who Is to Tend the Flock?

- Those who are “Shepherds”
 - Identified as those who *feed* the flock
 - Acts 20:28
- Those who are addressed as:
 - Elders, (Acts 20:17)
 - Bishops, (Acts 20:28)
 - Pastors (1 Peter 5:2)
- The words: “feed,” “tend,” and “pastor” are from the same root word.
- The *Elders*, who are the *Bishops* or overseers are the *Pastors*.
- Not three different offices.

Elders Have Limited Jurisdiction

- N.T. discusses their qualities, their work and their allocation, or jurisdiction.
 - We will address their *allocation* or *jurisdiction*.
 - Particularly, the limits & bounds thereof.
- “Neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you...” (1Peter 5:3)
 - “Neither as being lords over *God’s heritage*” (KJV)
 - “Inheritance, lot, part or portion” (*W.E. Vine*).
 - “The figure is from the portions of lands allotted to be cultivated” (*ibid.*).
- Jurisdiction is limited.

The Charge Allotted

- Allotted– “To parcel or to assign, to assign by lot” (*Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary*)
- Something has been assigned by lot to the elders.
 - Suggests limitations and boundaries.
 - That which they must not to go beyond.
- That “something” identified in the texts:
 - “The flock of God which is *among you*”
 - The church “*over which* the Holy Spirit made overseers.”

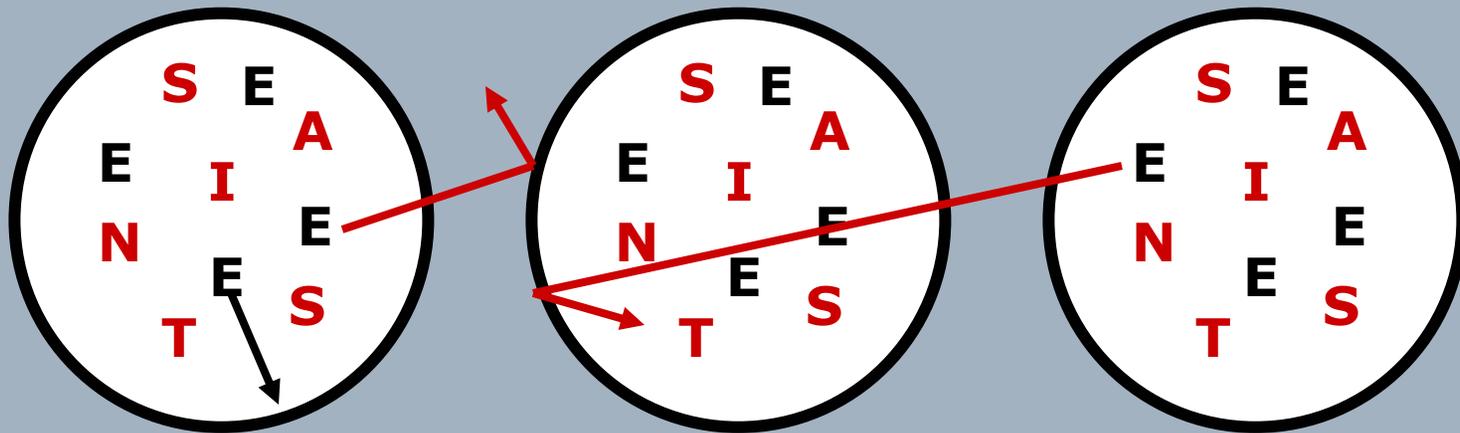
Character of the Allotment

- Their allotment viewed:
 - The Local Church over which they were overseers
 - The flock of God which was among them
 - These are the boundaries.
 - The churches are independent and autonomous:
 - Independent: "Not subject to control of others."
 - Autonomous: "Having the right of self government."
 - Mosheim, church historian, writes:
 - "During a greater part of this century (the 2nd) the Christian churches were independent on each other; nor were they joined together by association, confederacy or any other bonds but those of charity. *Each Christian assembly was a little state governed by its own laws* which were either enacted, or, at least, approved of by the society." (*Ecclesiastical History*, Vol. I, p. 49)
-

God's Arrangement Circumvented

- ❑ By an individual who will not submit.
- ❑ How does a church act or work?
 - Through its resources (Acts 15:3)
 - Through its agents (Romans 16:1)
- ❑ What has one done who diminishes his support to the local church to do a work of his own choosing.
- ❑ What would become of the church if all did this?

The Elders' Allotment



Ephesus
Acts 20:28

Iconium
1 Peter 5:1-3

Antioch
1 Peter 5:1-3

Limited to the Flock Among You & Over Which Made Elders

Relation of Allotment to Elders

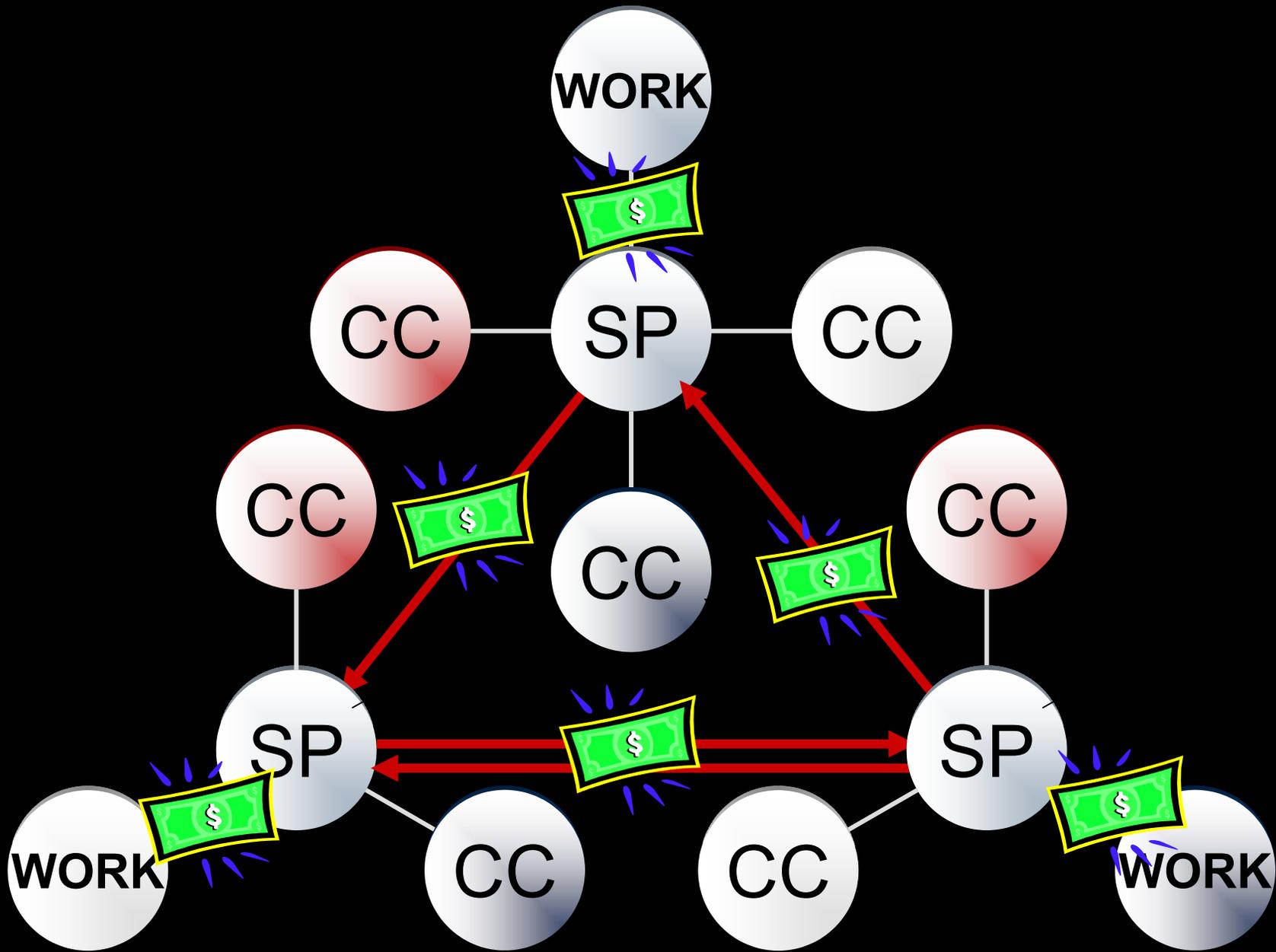
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13
 - “Know them”
 - Approve
 - Matthew 7:21-23
 - “Esteem them”
 - Regard with respect
 - Treat favorably
- 1 Timothy 5:17
 - “Double honor”
 - Esteem
 - Financial Support
- Hebrews 13:17
 - “Obey”
 - Obey in matters of teaching
 - Titus 1:9-13
 - “Submit”
 - Submit in matters of judgment
 - James 4:12

God's Arrangement Circumvented

- By the Sponsoring Church Plan
 - Broadway in Lubbock, TX
 - Herald of Truth
- "These councils of which we find not the smallest trace before the middle of this century, changed the whole face of the church and gave it a new form; for by them the ancient privileges of the people were considerably diminished, and the power and authority of the bishops augmented."
(*ibid.* p. 50)

The Sponsoring Church

- ❑ A group of Elders who have the ability to spend more money than the church over which they are elders have and think this is virtue.
- ❑ They think they have the ability to oversee a work of the church universal; a work to which all other churches are equally related.
- ❑ They are able to find promoters with the ability to persuade brethren to provide the resources.
- ❑ Thus, you have the sponsoring church and the qualifications of sponsoring church elders



WHO IS SPENDING WHOSE MONEY? WHO IS DOING WHOSE WORK?

Is It Expedient?

□ “Herald of Truth”

- Most expedient way to preach the gospel.
- 30 minute radio program
- Approximately 18 minutes advertising and singing, about 12 minutes preaching.
- Cost per year solicited, \$1,400,000.
- Approximately 624 minutes of preaching per year. A total of 10.5 hours.

\$1,400,000 in 1950 Dollars

- What the above amount would provide for one year:
 - Build 52 Meeting Houses to worship in.
 - Support 52 preaches full time
 - Provide for each a fifteen minute broadcast each week.
- You tell me which is most expedient?

The Kingdom of Heaven

John 3:1-8

The Word Itself

- “Primarily an abstract noun, denoting sovereignty, royal power, dominion... then by metonymy, a concrete noun, denoting the territory or people over whom a king rules” (W.E. Vine, p. 634).
- Generally- rule or power
- Specifically- the people ruled

Jesus Defines the Kingdom

- Matthew 6:10
 - “Thy kingdom come”
 - “Thy will be done”
- Ephesians 1:7
 - “Redemption thru blood”
 - “Forgiveness of sins”
- The word “Kingdom” describes people who allow the Will of God to rule in their hearts and life.

Things Equal to the Same Thing...

- **“Kingdom of God” (Mark 1:15)**
 - “Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 3:2)
 - Thus, the Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of Heaven
- **“Kingdom of God” (Mark 9:1)**
 - “Kingdom of Son” (Matthew 16:28)
 - Thus, the Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of the Son.
- **Conclusion:** Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of the Son are all the same.

The Kingdom Is at Hand

- Matthew 3:2
- What does this mean?
- A.T. Robertson, “...He evidently means very near, so near that one could see the signs and proof.” (*Word Pictures*)
- Albert Barnes, “The reign of God draws near.” (*Notes*)
- “At hand” means approaching soon.

Isaiah 2:1-3

Last Days ▶▶

Lord's House ▶▶

Word of Lord ▶▶

All Nations ▶▶

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Acts 2:17

◀◀ Last Days

◀◀ Church

◀◀ Word of Lord

◀◀ All Nations

Establishment

- Mark 9:1
 - Some not die **TILL** see Kingdom come
 - with **POWER**
- Acts 1:8
 - Power would come **WHEN** Holy Spirit came
 - Power and Holy Spirit came **SAME TIME**
- Acts 2:1-4
 - Holy Spirit came on **PENTECOST**
 - Holy Spirit → Power → Kingdom came

Jesus on His Throne

“ Brethren, I may say unto you freely of the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us unto this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would set one upon his throne; he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses. Being therefore by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath poured forth this, which ye see and hear For David ascended not into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Till I make thine enemies the footstool of thy feet. Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified” (Acts 2:29-36).

Inherit the Kingdom

- What does “inherit the kingdom” mean?
 - Not the kingdom itself but that which is promised to those in the kingdom.
 - Matthew 25:34
- The Kingdom is named when the blessing of citizenship is intended, eternal life (Romans 2:4-6).

The Kingdom Is the Church

CHURCH	◀ The Same ▶	KINGDOM
Ephesians 1:22, 23	Head	Acts 17:7
1 Corinthians 15:1-4	Law	Acts 8:12
Ephesians 2:16-19	Subjects	Ephesians 2:16-19
Colossians 3:15	Territory	Hebrews 8:10-11

The Called Out Are Those That Are Ruled By Christ

Enter the Kingdom of Heaven

- John 3:5 “Except one be born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God”.
 - He will enter IF AND ONLY IF he is born of water and the Spirit.
 - If the kingdom does not exist now, neither does the new birth.
- The elect, (1 Peter 1:1); the saved, (1 Peter 1:9); those redeemed by the blood of Christ, (1 Peter 1:18, 19) **HAD BEEN BORN AGAIN** through the word of God (1 Peter 1:23).

▲ THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN EXISTS RIGHT NOW

Born of Water & the Spirit

John 3:3-5	of the Spirit	Water	Enter Kingdom
Galatians 3:26, 27	Faith	Baptized	Into Christ
1 Corinthians 12:13	by one Spirit	Baptized	Into One Body