

Lesson 1

JERUSALEM: THE FIRST CHURCH

Romans 15:25-27 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: Jerusalem was the “Eve” of all true churches. Paul said all the Gentile churches were debtor to the Jerusalem church. They sprang from her.

- I. Her Membership Was Cosmopolitan. (Belonging to the whole world, not local)
 - A. The small number included all classes and conditions.
 - B. Noble ladies - Joanne and Susannah from Herod’s court - Mary, a carpenter’s widow.
 - C. A distinguished lawyer, Joseph of Arimathea. Scholar, Nicodemus.
 - D. Fisherman - publican, zealot - land owner in Joseph of Cyprus.

- II. The Government Was Congregational and Democratic
 - A. The election of Judas’ successor. Peter did not assume to nominate.
 - B. Election of deacons. Acts 6:1-6 prove this point.
 - C. The record is clear and positive:
 1. The case was submitted to the entire company of men and women.
 2. Mary and all had but one vote.

- III. There Was A Six-Fold Unity In the Mother church
 - A. A unity of place - Acts 2:1 – local and not universal.
 1. They - the members - had the church-going habit.
 2. A sadder day had come when Hebrews 10:25 was written.
 - B. A unity of purpose - Acts 2:1, “with one accord”
 - C. A unity of prayer - Acts 1:14, It was a praying church
 1. They were constantly praying. Acts 2:42; Acts 4:31
 2. Acts 12:5, 12
 - D. A unity of power - Acts 2:4 - “They were all filled with the Spirit.”
 1. This power evidenced by a clear insight to the Scriptures. Peter explained Joel’s prophecy: Acts 2:16ff
 2. Evidenced by a holy boldness: Acts 4:13, 31; 4:29
 - E. A unity of practice - The Christian community accepted and practiced two rites.
 1. Baptism administered to those who received the preached word: Acts 2:41; 8:36-38; 10:44-48, etc.
 2. The Lord’s Supper was the other rite. They saw in the Supper an abiding memorial to Christ, a token of His return, etc.
 - F. A unity of possessions - Acts 2:44-45
 1. Some say this is pure communism here taught. If it does, it is voluntary. No one is forced. Acts 5:4.
 2. Jesus never told Joseph of Arimathea to sell his property, etc.

3. No other church in the New Testament practiced this.
4. This one experiment failed for Paul received offerings, for the needy saints at Jerusalem.
5. This practice followed immediately on Pentecost. Great joy created an unusual situation. Thousands from all over the world were at that Passover and then remained there for the revival. They were to be fed and cared for, etc. This is why they did it, I believe.

IV. The Mother Church Triumphed Over Persecution

- A. First, the Sadducees persecuted because of resurrection preaching
 1. Acts 2:31; 3:15; 4:10 before the Sanhedrin
 2. Acts 3:36; 4:32; 5:30, 32, etc.
 3. Sad, but the Sadducees live today in those who deny Christ's resurrection.
- B. Second, the Pharisees persecuted because of preaching on the value of the old dispensation.
 1. Stephen said Christ better than priesthood, temple, etc.
 2. They debated him and lost. Acts 6:10. They persecuted.
- C. Third, the Jewish state persecuted.
 1. Herod beheaded James, the apostle, and imprisoned Peter.
 2. Prison bars could not hold Peter. Angel delivered him.
 3. Note: Angel of deliverances released Peter and an angel of judgment smote Herod. No weapon formed against the mother church prospered. Is there not a lesson for us? A return to primitive power. What enlightened man would not say that this is what we need?

Lesson 2

ANTIOCH: THE MISSIONARY CHURCH

Acts 11:19-30 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: This city was a center of mythology.

- I. The Origin of the Antioch Church
 - A. Certain Jews were in Jerusalem and converted under Peter.
 - B. Persecution drove Cyprus and Cyrene to Antioch where they preached: Acts 11:19-20
 - C. The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas (with authority) to investigate.
 1. He preached, many were converted: Acts 11:24.
 2. The crowd got so big he needed outside help.
 3. At Tarsus was a 44-year-old man named Saul.
 4. Barnabas recognized Paul's gift and went for him.
- II. The Disciples At This Church Take On A New Name, Acts 11:26
 - A. This name was given unto them by their enemies.
 1. A Christian is identified with a Person, Acts 11:26
 2. A Christian is identified with a Persuasion, Acts 26:28
 3. A Christian is identified with a Persecution, 1 Peter 4:16
- III. The Antioch Church Was Evangelistic in Spirit
 - A. Evangelism is the proclamation of the Gospel.
 1. Logically and chronologically it is the first duty of Christians.
 2. It aims to convey to the lost a saving knowledge of Christ
 - B. The Gospel preached, Acts 11:20. Results: verse 21
 - C. Evangelism changed the morals of the city
 1. It is the cure for all that afflicts a society
 2. See poem on the inside cover (not available in this copy)
- IV. The Antioch Church Was Liberal In Giving
 - A. Liberality thrives in an atmosphere of evangelism.
 1. A heart warmed by grace is generous to human needs.
 2. The financial problem of any church is a spiritual one.
 3. Barnabas led in giving. A liberal preacher makes a liberal church.
 - B. Antioch was not a rich church, and famine threatened, Acts 11:28
 1. God did not withhold from us His Son.
 2. Living is giving; withholding is death.
 - C. Every man did his part, Acts 11:29; When all gave in Moses' day, there was more than enough, Exodus 36:5-7.

- V. The Antioch Church Was Missionary In Practice
 - A. Missions inevitably will flourish in the liberal and evangelistic church.
 - 1. These are three links in the chain.
 - 2. If you find the first two, you will find the third.
 - B. Missions is the Magna Carta of Christianity.
 - 1. It is our marching orders, said Bro. Walker.
 - 2. It contains six alls: All power - all ye - all the world - all nations - all things - all the days.
 - C. Peter saw the opened door on the housetop
 - 1. The mother church did not take the command serious.
 - 2. It remained for the first Gentile church to be the first foreign missionary church. Here is a lesson for us.
 - D. Missions originated with the Holy Spirit, Acts 13:1-2
 - 1. Anti-missions is resistance to the Spirit of God.
 - 2. It is easy to know the church led of the Spirit - missions.
 - E. Remember: They helped Jerusalem (home) and abroad.
 - F. Note the character of and qualifications of those first missions.
 - 1. Antioch had five prophets and teachers, Acts 13:1
 - 2. The ablest and not the less-able were sent out.
 - 3. This church was unselfish - are we?
- VI. The Antioch Church Was Sound In Doctrine
 - A. They preached and practiced church authority.
 - 1. They ordained their missionaries, Acts 13:4
 - 2. They reported back to their authority, Acts 14:26-27; 13:30.
 - B. They were autonomous - independent
 - 1. Antioch sent for Saul whom Jerusalem abandoned.
 - 2. Jerusalem exercised no authority over them in the conference of Acts 15.
 - C. They were congregational. Notice the word “they,” Acts 13:1-3
 - D. They exercised care with church finances. Two men and not one were entrusted with the funds for Jerusalem, Acts 11:30.
 - E. They withstood the “works for salvation” men (not brothers) from the Jerusalem church, Acts 15:1-2.
 - F. It would be well to check missionaries out regardless which church they come from or which Baptist preachers they claim to know.

Conclusion: It would be hard to find a better model church than Antioch: Maybe Thessalonica!

Lesson 3

CORINTH - THE WORLDLY CHURCH

Acts 18:1-11 - Berlin Hisel

- I. Introduction:
- (1) Founded on Paul's second missionary journey - Paul alone.
 - (2) Corinth had the worship of Aphrodite (Venus) with 1,000 prostitutes.
 - (3) In 51 AD Paul came to this corrupt city - resort of pleasure with the Gospel
 - (4) Here he made friends with Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2), devout Jews from Rome.
 - (5) Paul worked while establishing the church, a method used often today.
 - (6) He began his work in the synagogue and won Jews and Greeks. Silas and Timothy then joined him. They are then kicked out of the synagogue.
 - (7) Moving into Justis' house, Crispus (verse 8), Gaius, the household of Stephanus, were saved and were baptized by Paul.
 - (8) Being assured of much people in Corinth (verse 10), he remained 3 ½ years (verse 11).
- II. Jesus Christ Was The Foundation of This Church
- A. Foundation of Stoicism was Zeno - foundation of Epicureanism was Epicurus.
 - B. Paul declared this in 1 Cor. 3:10-11. On that foundation Paul built.
 - C. It was worldly in that they claimed men as the foundation, 1 Cor. 3:3-4.
- III. The Church Was Established With a Variety of People
- A. Paul had to contend with the worldly wise, 1 Cor. 1:17 and 2 :13.
 - B. Jews, Greeks, Free men, Slaves, Nobles, etc.
- IV. The Church Had Divisions In It
- A. Fourfold division over preachers. Paul, Apollos, Peter and the fourth called themselves - simply Christians, 1 Cor. 1:12
 - B. There were social and doctrinal divisions, 1 Cor. 11:18-22.
- V. The Church Had Disorders in Morals In It
- A. Jealousy - Over the different men - jealousy is worldly.
 - B. Fornication - 1 Cor. 5:1. They were even proud of it, 5:2, Also 6:15-16.
 - C. Controversy - 1 Cor. 6:1-8. Saints at law before unbelievers.
 - D. Gluttony - 1 Cor. 11:21-22 - including drunkenness.
 - E. Indifference - 1 Cor. 8:7-13. The other fellow's right to be respected illustrated in thie eating of meat.
 - F. Vanity - 1 Cor. 11:1-16 - seen in the dress and appearances of men and women. Don't dress like those who visit the temple of Venus.

- VI. This Church Misused Their Spiritual Gifts
 - A. They had as many gifts as any other church, 1 Cor. 1:5-7
 - B. They misused them. In relation to tongues, see 1 Cor. 14:19, 23, etc.
 - C. The various gifts are from the same Spirit and for common good, 1 Cor. 13:4 and 14:12
 - D. These gifts were for accrediting the church and have ceased, 1 Cor 13:8.

- VII. The Church Is To Be Praised For Their Promptness in Complying With His Counsel
 - A. They excluded the fornicator, 2 Cor. 7:9-12
 - B. They helped in mission work, 2 Cor. 9:1-3
 - C. Read 2 Cor. 7:16

- VIII. Some Very Important Lessons Learned From The Corinthian Letters
 - A. Support of pastor: ministerial support argued for in 1 Cor. 9
 - 1. The soldier is supported by the government (verse 7)
 - 2. Vine dresser eats the fruit of the vineyard (verse 7)
 - 3. Shepherd drinks of the milk (verse 7)
 - 4. The law of Moses - ox can't be muzzled (verse 9)
 - 5. Natural gratitude: he who confers spiritual things is entitled to material support from the beneficiaries (verse 11)
 - 6. Temple services. The Levites were supported by this worshipers (verse 1).
 - B. Total authority and independency of the local church. This is seen in:
 - 1. Congregation had authority in cases of discipline (1 Cor. 5:13). Seen is the excluded member's restoration (2 Cor. 2:7).
 - 2. Decisions were made by a vote, the majority ruling (2 Cor. 2:6).
 - 3. The church prepared letters of inquiry (1 Cor. 7:1)
 - 4. The church appointed messengers, 1 Cor. 16:3; 1 Cor. 3:1; 8:19.
 - 5. They were urged to settle their own disputes, 1 Cor. 6:1.

Lesson 4

THE GALATIANS CHURCHES - UNSTABLE CHURCHES

Acts 16:6; 18:23 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: "Churches" No territorial church

- I. There Are Two Theories Where Those Churches Were
 - A. Roman province annexed by Augustus in 25 BC
 1. The cities would be Debre, Lystra, Iconium, and Pierdian Antroth
 2. This would have been on the first journey of Paul
 - B. A section in Central Asia - Ancyra, Pessinus, and Tavium.

- II. Providence Founded The Galatian Churches
 - A. Paul wanted to preach in Asia and Bithynia
 - B. Illness shut him up in Galatia
 1. This illness had something to do with his eyes, Gal. 4:15
 2. Maybe he never fully recovered from the Damascus Road experience.
 - C. Paul's illness may have been his thorn, Gal. 4:13; 2 Cor. 12:7

- III. The Galatians Had Been Slaves To False Gods, Gal. 4:8
 - A. God thought of them before they thought of him.
 - B. Salvation always begins with God, Gal. 4:4; 1:4; 1:6; 4:5

- IV. Their Salvation Came To Them By Faith, Gal. 3:24-26; 3:11

- V. Their Instability Came From Judaizers, 4:17
 - A. Paul had circumcised Timothy, but not Titus, 2:3-4
 - B. His doctrine of justification by faith they did not like, 3:22
 - C. They denied Paul's apostleship which he vindicated, 1:10 - 2:14; Eph. 1:12

- VI. They Were Unstable On Grace, Gal. 5:4
 - A. This is abandoning pardon of sin by grace and seeking it by law.
 - B. Who is justified by law? Gal. 3:11; Rom. 3:20
 - C. One who is saved by doing must keep saved by doing.
 - D. Law and grace are the two systems contrasted in Galatians.

- VII. There Is Not One Expression of Thankfulness For These Fickle Galatians
 - A. He even praised the church of Corinth on some things.
 - B. Instability is a curse anytime. Luke warns, etc.

- VIII. From These Churches We Learn The Fickleness of Human Nature

- A. Example: People cheer the team when it wins, boos when it loses.
- B. They loved Paul when he was there - the preacher's expectation
- C. How people work for a while under a new pastor.

IX. Learn The Impossibility of Permanent Success on Some Fields

- A. Paul was the best educated man of his day. He visited them twice.
- B. Timothy and Silas labored with Paul in Galatia
- C. Some works fail. If we ever fail, let us never stop.

X. Learn The Persistency of False Teachers

- A. These who undermined Paul in Galatia were not skeptics, but false teachers
 - 1. They claimed to be the true people of God
 - 2. They live on today in the false religions and in some Baptists
- B. Wherever Paul went they followed. Read the book of Acts
- C. There was one in the first church: see also Jude 4-10; 12-13; 2 Peter 2:1-3

XI. Learn: It Is Our Duty To Uncompromisingly Contend For Truth

- A. Read Gal. 1:6-9 - not a soft-soaping of words
- B. Read Gal. 2:11-14 - even the Pope was spoken against
- C. He spoke against works for salvation, 2:16, 21
- D. Called the errorists by name, 3:1
- E. Old Testament Saints saved by the Gospel - this is contrary to Campbellism, etc., today - we MUST point it out.

Conclusion: To be unstable is to err. It is important to contend for the faith - all of it. The stable churches receive praise, blessings, and are used of the Lord.

Lesson 5

PHILIPPI - THE JOYFUL CHURCH

Acts 16:6-13

- Introduction:
- (1) It was started on the second missionary journey of Paul AD 50-54
 - (2) Troas was where Silas, Timothy, Luke, and Paul were all together - the Macedonian vision summoned the missionaries into Europe.
 - (3) By the river bank Lydia (a wealthy woman, Acts 16:15) was the first convert.
 - (4) A female fortune teller was the next (Acts 16:16-25).
 - (5) Put in jail over the conversion of the girl by her master - the Philippian jailor and his family became the next converts (Acts 16:25-34).
 - (6) Acts 16:40 indicates many were saved and the church was growing.
 - (7) This was a joyful church - 16 times the words “joy” and “rejoice” occur in Philippians: It was a joyful church because:

I. . . . Of Its Pecuniary Liberality, Seen In Four Ways

- A. Liberality of the poor, 2 Cor. 8:1-5. The poor usually give most.
- B. Unsolicited contributions: “own accord”
- C. Insistent liberality. “Beseeching of us the grace and participation in the ministering of the saints.”
 1. They wanted to be identified with the good work.
 2. They wanted to share in Paul’s labors, cf 2 John 8.
- D. Continuous giving. They gave for the work in Macedonia, Phil. 4:15. Again in Thessalonica, Phil. 4:16 - needy saints at Jerusalem.

II. They Had Learned Joy In Prayer - Phil. 1:3-4 (verses 3-11)

III. With Paul, They Learned To Joy In Adversity, 1:18

IV. Joy In Death As Well As Life - 1:21-30, especially 25-26

V. Being Like-minded Brings Joy, Phil. 2:2. Compare with 4:2.

VI. Joy In Sacrifice And In Service, Phil. 2:17-18

VII. They Rejoiced In Their Preacher, 2:25-30, especially 28

VIII. They Rejoiced In The Lord, Phil. 3:1. What do we rejoice in?

IX. They Rejoiced Always In The lord, Phil 4:4

- X. They Rejoiced Because They Were Victorious Over Opposition
 - A. The missionaries ran counter to the wicked traffic, but were not side-tracked.
 - B. The civil government persecuted them.

Lesson 6

EPHESUS - THE EFFECTIVE CHURCH

Acts 19:1 - Berlin Hisel

- Introduction:
- (1) Two architectural features at Ephesus - Temple of Diana of Diana and the Theater 40,000.
 - (2) This church has prominence in Revelation, Epistles and in Acts.
 - (3) Paul wanted to go there during his second journey, but was forbidden, Acts 16:6.
 - (4) As that journey closed, he made a short visit to Ephesus. He was asked to stay and promised to return, Acts 18:19-21.
 - (5) Aquila and Priscilla from Corinth were left at Ephesus
 - (6) Apollos from University of Alexander visited there.
 - (7) Third missionary journey Paul tarried there two years and three months
 - (8) Notice why Ephesus was the effective church:

I. The Doctrine Of Repentance Was Preached And Practiced

- A. Enoch, 7th from Adam preached it - Noah preached it 120 years.
- B. Jonah preached it to Ninevah, and there was great revival.
- C. Jeremiah and Hosea said, "Break up your fallow ground."
- D. The Baptist's voice broke a 400-year silence with repentance.
- E. Jesus preached it; Paul preached it at Ephesus, Acts 20:21
- F. John preached it to Ephesus in Revelation 2:5
- G. The message of every church that would be effective must preach "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

II. Faith In Christ Was Professed In The Public And Appointed Way

- A. The twelve were baptized when they believed in Christ, Acts 19:4-5
- B. Those who refuse the command of baptism stand in contrast to these.
- C. Baptism professes a change which already has taken place.
- D. It pledges allegiance to the Master.
- E. It does not procure that change but indicates it has happened.
- F. Illustration of the gourd: soaked before the seed was removed.
- G. No church will be effective where Scriptural baptism is not taught and practiced.

III. This Church Had The Right Kind of Preaching

- A. The preaching had boldness. See Acts 20:20, 26-27.
 1. Paul never trimmed his sails to catch a popular breeze.
 2. Soft-preaching churches are not effective churches.
- B. The preaching was faithful

1. Persecutions did not drive him away, 19:23-41.
 2. Cast into the Theater, he never left, 1 Cor. 15:32
- C. The preaching was reasonable
1. Paul was logical and forceful. See Acts 19:9.
 2. Mystical preaching does not make effective churches.
- D. The preaching was compassionate
1. Read Acts 20:19, 31.
 2. Col, intellectualism does not make an effective church.
- IV. This Church Was A Separated Church, See Acts 19:9
- A. This church had power in the community. because it established a community regulated on Christian principles.
 - B. “Come ye out from among them” The church that cannot discipline cannot live.
- V. This Church Was A Missionary Church, Acts 19:10 - Offensive Defense
- A. That territory was evangelized in three years.
 - B. Paul did not do it in person, Acts 20:18 – the church did it.
 - C. Take missions out of a church, and you have a ship without a port.
 1. An athlete without a goal.
 2. Soldiers without an order.
 - D. No mission zeal = write “Ichabod” over the door., 1 Samuel 4:21
- VI. This Church Exposed And Overthrew A Counterfeit Christianity
- A. Read of Sceva’s sons: Acts 19:14-15, 18-20
 - B. We need churches today to expose Russellism, Unitarianism, Mormonism, Christian Science, Adventism, etc.
- VII. The Ephesian Church Was Doctrinal
- A. The Ephesian letter is the most doctrinal book in the New Testament
 - B. Doctrine is the mortar to hold a church together.
 - C. Evangelism itself will not be effective without a doctrinal foundation.
- VIII. This Church Had Souls Saved: Acts 19:20
- A. See Eph. 2:2 and 2:12
 - B. This could be the reason for a lack of conversions today

Conclusion: This Ephesian church broke up the monopoly of the silversmiths and their idols of Diana, Acts 19:20. How I pray God would make us to be such an effective church as was Ephesus.

Lesson 7

THESSALONICA - THE EXPECTANT CHURCH

Acts 17:1-9 - Berlin Hisel

- I. Introduction:
 - A. The city was originally Therma, named Thessalonica after Alexander's half-sister, who married Cassander, Alexander's general.
 - B. It was founded upon Paul's second missionary journey.
 - C. For three weeks he preached in the synagogue as his manner was, Acts 17:2.
 - D. Jews, Greeks, and noble women were converted, Acts 17:4.
 - E. Demas was probably another, see 2 Timothy 4:10.
 - F. All this brought persecution. Paul fled to Athens, then to Corinth where he wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

- II. Some Particular Observations About The Thessalonica Church. This Church Was Born In a Revival
 - A. Paul's seemingly most successful preaching was in Thessalonica.
 - B. They received the preached Word as God's truth, 1 Thess. 2:13.
 - C. They turned from idols to serve the living and true God, 1 Thess. 1:9
 - D. From them the Word "echoed out," 1 Thess. 1:8. This is revival.

- III. This Church Secured The Oversight of Good Pastors, 1 Thess. 5:12-13
 - A. They esteemed them highly for the right reason - "the work's sake."
 - B. Pastors appointed by the Spirit and elected by the congregation are to be the recognized leaders.
 - C. A pastor's work: (1) labor, (2) leadership, (3) admonishment, verse 12

- IV. This Church Had The Three Graces: Faith, Love, and Hope, 1 Thess. 1:3
 - A. Their faith stood James' test, James 2:18. Proof is 1 Thess. 1:8.
 - B. Their love was great, 1 Thess. 4:9-10.
 - C. Their hope was evident in trials, 2 Thess. 1:4.

- V. The Church Did Have Some Spiritual Idlers, 2 Thess. 3:11
 - A. Not working makes a busybody - they go together.
 - B. "Gossiping is the trade of those who have no trade."
 - C. Paul puts a premium upon work, 1 Thess. 3:11-15 (read).

- VI. The Characteristics That Make Thessalonica The "Expectant Church"
 - A. "They believed vividly in the Second Coming"
 - B. Paul taught the second coming so real they misjudged that Christ would come in their own day.

1. They took literally 1 Thess. 1:10
2. Let us desire the “blessed hope” yet let us labor fervently.
- C. Converts will be a preacher’s jewels at the second coming, 1 Thess. 2:19.
- D. The believing dead are now with Christ and will return with Him at his second coming, 1 Thess. 4:14.
- E. The exact time of His coming is unknown, 1 Thess. 5:2.
 1. William Miller, founder of Adventism, set Oct 27, 1844.
 2. Russell Rutherford taught that He would come in 1914.
 3. His coming will be sudden and unexpected to most.
- F. Certain things are to happen before He returns:
 1. Apostasy, 2 Thess. 2:3
 2. Revealing of the man of sin, 2 Thess. 2:4. Who is anti-Christ?
- G. He will come next time as a Judge, 2 Thess. 1:6-10.
 1. The first coming to the manger was as a Savior.
 2. All miscarriages of justice will then be righted at the second coming.
- H. There will be a resurrection of the dead, 1 Thess. 4:14-17
 1. Our complete sanctification will then take place, 1 Thess. 5:23
 2. Read also 1 Thess. :13
- I. Evil will end at the second coming, 2 Thess. 2:8

Conclusion

As an expectant church, the Word of the Lord sounded forth from Thessalonica. If we really look for Jesus, we will surely be an expectant church. As such, much will be done for His cause while we wait.

Lesson 8

COLOSSE - THE HERETICAL CHURCH

Colossians 1:1-15 - Berlin Hisel

- I. Introduction
 - A. The importance of preaching: Colossians today.

- II. The Founding Of The Colosse Church
 - A. The book of Acts gives no hint Paul founded this church
 - 1. Colossians 2:1 seems to indicate many in the church had not seen Paul.
 - 2. Paul may have passed through Colosse on his third missionary journey.
 - B. Epaphras probably the founder of this church, Col. 1:7.
 - 1. He was a Colossian, Col. 4:12 - note his prayer for them.
 - 2. He was a fellow-prisoner in Christ with Paul, Phil. 2:25
 - 3. He worked hard with them and the other churches in the Lycus Valley, 4:13
 - C. Paul had other friends in the Colossian church
 - 1. Phileman, Apphia and Archippus, Phil. 1-2
 - 2. The colossian church met in Pilemon's house. Compare Col. 4:9 with Phil. 2.
 - 3. Onesimus, Philemon's slave, was a member - read Philemon.

- III. Just What Was The Colossian Heresy? Consisted Of Four Things.
 - A. It consisted of false philosophy, Col. 2:8
 - 1. This philosophy claimed to see visions and discover secrets, Col. 2:18.
 - 2. It denied the all sufficiency and preeminence of Christ..
 - 3. Paul argues the sufficiency of Christ 2:26, 2:8-9.
 - 4. Paul asserts the complete adequacy of Christ as Savior. See Col. 1:13-20; Col. 1:27-28; 3:1-4.
 - 5. Note: This is important today in view of so many new teachings; new requirements added to be saved; people with new philosophies; visions. We stress the completeness of Christ, 2:10.
 - B. The heresy contained Judaistic ceremonialism, Col. 2:11; 16-17; 3:11
 - 1. Special saving significance is attached to circumcision, food regulations and observance of special days.
 - a. Legalistic Christianity - saved today, then lost; baptismal regeneration; Armstrong's food regulations; Catholic holy days; convention special days, etc.
 - b. These all point to the dispensation of the old economy.
 - 2. Paul argues they are shadows. They have lost all significance now that the object casting the shadow, namely Christ, has Himself arrived. See Col. 2:17.
 - 3. Note: It is very obvious that this part of the heresy is prevalent today.
 - C. The heresy consisted also of angel worship, Col. 1:16; 2:15, 18
 - 1. This, of course, detracts from the uniqueness of Christ, as if He were insufficient for

complete salvation.

2. The counter part today: Men have an unholy reverence for angels. Seen in the art-literature of today. This is especially observed in Catholicism today.
3. Note: Angels are ministers to the heirs of salvation, Heb. 1:14. We are complete in Him.

D. This heresy consisted also in Asceticism, Col. 2:20-23.

1. Asceticism in its unsparing treatment of the body were beyond Judaism.
2. This taught the body is evil; therefore, punish or subdue it.
3. Paul refutes this in 3:1-4 when he points to Christ as the real answer.

E. Note: With Monks and Nuns, asceticism prevails. It prevails within a large part of the Pentecostalism also. It is seen in Baptist preachers who are purely negative: "Thou shalt not." It thus becomes obvious why we should expose this heresy.

IV. The Antidote For This Heresy

A. The truth of the Gospel is the antidote. The truth of Christ's real nature, office, mission, and method.

1. As to His nature: He is the visible representation of the invisible God, 1:15.
2. As to His office: He is head of the church, Col. 1:18.
3. As to His mission: To reconcile the estranged to God, Col. 1:21.
4. As to His Method: Through His blood, 1:20. Nailing the legal requirements to His cross, 2:14; triumphing over Satan, 2:15.

B. The antidote to this, and all heresies, is the study of the Word of God.

Conclusion:

Colosse became heretical by giving ears to the doctrine of the Essenes. We hear much today about liberty or the non-essentials. Under this guise many Baptists listen to false teaching, are embraced by them. Let us not listen to false teachers, but let us decry them in our Sunday School classes, church papers, tracts, and most of all from the Baptist pulpits.

Lesson 9

THE IDEAL CHURCH 1 Thessalonians 1 - Berlin Hisel

- I. Introduction
 - A. “An ideal is a standard of perfection; a perfect type, whether a reality or a conception only,” There will be a wide difference between practical and ideal excellence. What would be the outstanding features of an ideal church?

- II. It Would Be A Church Of The Open Book
 - A. The Bible will be its law book and guide book
 - 1. Many churches use tradition or enacted church laws.
 - 2. Rome has more clearly and abundantly claimed infallibility for their church above Scripture.
 - 3. That there is infant baptism proves some hold other authority.
 - B. The place of the open book is a place where sinners are warned.
 - 1. It is there the lost may find salvation
 - 2. No other place will show the sinner lost or how to be saved.
 - 3. Many are the social organizations, yet they help not the lost.
 - C. Place where the new-born babe may find food, 1 Peter 2:2
 - D. Place where the student may get lessons in the deep things of God.
 - E. A place where the sorrowing may get comfort indeed.

- III. It Will Be A Church Of The Opened Heart
 - A. A church of brotherly love
 - 1. Love is an instinct planted by God in the new birth, 1 John 4:7; 1 Thess 4:9.
 - 2. Brotherly love will be manifested two ways:
 - a. In hospitality
 - b. In sympathy
 - B. The church of the open heart will be a praying church
 - 1. Prayer is another instinct planted in regeneration.
 - 2. After Paul’s conversion. Read Acts 9:11
 - 3. Observation: Prayer is a point of failure among us.

- IV. It Will Be A Church Of The Open Purse
 - A. Many churches have been cheapened in the eyes of the world by the lack of giving by our members.
 - 1. I am thankful for the spirit of giving in our church
 - 2. We fall short of Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses.
 - B. A church has the biggest task on earth
 - 1. It is a task that involves the whole world.

2. God has given us only one method: offerings of His people.
- C. More is said in the bible on giving than any other subject
- D. Observation: As pastor, I am not a gold-digger. I only hope to generate a spirit of ever-increasing giving in our church.
 1. A weak body is easily infected.
 2. A weak body is a trouble to others
- E. Nurses, doctors, and families must wait on the sick.
- F. Sick churches are a hindrance to any community.

Conclusion:

Church bodies need to be strong in the Lord. We can never achieve strength within ourselves. As much as sin abounds today the need of strong bodies (churches) is evident.

Lesson 10

A STRONG BODY

Ephesians 4:12-32 - Berlin Hisel

I. Introduction

- A. The bible uses the figure of a human body as a type or symbol of the local church, See Eph. 4:12; 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:27.
- B. Several things are necessary to have a strong body.
- C. We will try to show you what some of these are in this message showing or comparing a human body to the church, which is His body.

II. Things Necessary To A Strong Body: Human And Church

- A. To be strong a body must have a head.
 - 1. You should not have a live body much less a strong one without a head
 - 2. No strong church today without Christ as Head, Eph. 4:15; 1:22; 5:23.
 - 3. Many so-called churches today have human heads and are weak.
- B. A body to be strong needs all its parts present
 - 1. First thing after child-birth the mother sees if all parts are there on her baby. Missing arm would mean missing strength.
 - 2. For a church body to be strong, it needs all its members present, Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19; 1 Cor. 12:18-27.
- C. A body to be strong must grow
 - 1. As the child matures, his body grows stronger.
 - 2. Churches need to grow (up), Eph. 4:15. Many churches never grow or even grow up (putting away child-like things).
- D. A body to be strong must have plenty of food
 - 1. Without eating a body cannot be strong
 - 2. The Word of God is food for the local church. Where it is not preached plenty, you have a weak body.
- E. A body to be strong needs plenty of water.
 - 1. Water aids in all the functions of the body.
 - 2. Water is a type of the Bible and Holy Spirit both of which are needed if a church body is to be strong.
- F. A body to be strong needs plenty of exercise
 - 1. Your muscle men work out in the gymnasium.
 - 2. Churches need exercise in godliness, 1 Tim. 4:7. They need exercise in missions and Gospel work to be strong.
- G. A body to be strong needs plenty of rest
 - 1. Without rest and sleep strength will be sapped.
 - 2. Churches need rest also - members need to come to church on Sundays.
- H. A body to be strong needs to put away bad habits

1. Drugs, liquor, ets. Make for a weak body.
 2. Notice some of the bad habits in Ephesians 4 that will cause a church body to be weak.
 - a. Anger wrongly (verse 26)
 - b. Stealing (verse 28) robbing God
 - c. Verse 29 - verse 30 - verse 31
- I. A body to be strong must be free from disease
1. Gangrene in an arm means amputation to save the rest of the body to maintain strength.
 2. A gangrened church member must be amputated - exclusion (discipline, rw)
- III. Notice Some Practical Observations About This
- A. A weak body is easily overcome
1. The human body with disease
 2. Church body with false doctrine

Lesson 11

THE CHURCH TO BE A SOUNDING BOARD

1 Thessalonians 1:6 - Berlin Hisel

- I. Introduction
 - A. Our word “echo” comes from the Greek word translated ‘sounded’ in our text. Churches are to “echo” the Word of the Lord everywhere.
 - B. In order to ‘sound out’ or “echo” the Word, two things are necessary. Thus, the following message.

- II. You Must Have The Right Kind Of Church
 - A. It must be a local church, verse 1
 - 1. Church (ekklēsia) meant a congregation or assembly.
 - 2. The assembly of the Thessalonians sounded out the Word.
 - B. The assembly of the Thessalonians was a special assembly.
 - 1. “In God” ruled out any civil assembly
 - 2. “In the Lord Jesus Christ” ruled out the synagogue.
 - C. Only the assembly of Jesus Christ qualifies, Matt. 16:16.

- III. To Sound Out The Word Of The Lord, You Must Have Sound, Working, Hopeful Members (Verse 3)
 - A. They must have a work of faith
 - 1. What is this work of faith?
 - 2. It is found in verse 9. “... and how you turned to God from idols” Without repentance and believing members, all is lost.
 - B. They must have a labor of love
 - 1. What is this labor of love?
 - 2. Verse 9, “. . . to serve the living and true God.” Not just religious serving, but serving “the true God.”
 - C. They must have a hope: “Patience of hope.”
 - 1. This is found in verse 10 “. . . to wait for His dear Son from heaven”
 - 2. Second coming is our blessed hope (Titus 2:13), our only hope.

- IV. You Need Church Members Who Know Doctrine
 - A. Need people who know about the doctrine of election, verse 4
 - 1. Contrary to the opinion of some, election is an incentive to missions.
 - 2. Preaching would not be effective if it depended on man.
 - 3. Election produces thankfulness, which produces giving, etc.
 - B. Need people with Holy Ghost power experience, verse 5
 - 1. Most Baptists are scared to speak of the Holy Ghost
 - 2. Lack of His power prevents echoing the Word of God.

- C. Need people who have assurance, verse 5. How can one preach or teach that of which he is not sure?
- D. Need people who are sanctified, verse 6. “Followers . . . of the Lord.”
- E. Need people who have been afflicted, verse 6.
- F. Need people who have joy, verse 6.

Conclusion:

Verse seven tells us all of the above will make us examples. In verse eight, we have suggested: VISION, VIRTUE, VICTORY. All these are possessions of the church “sounding out” the Word of the Lord.

Lesson 12

THE OPERATION AND PURPOSE OF GOD'S CHURCH

Matthew 16:18 - Berlin Hisel

I. Introduction

A. There is a reason for the existence of a church and a plan by which it is to function.

II. Church Must Be In Unity

A. Amos 3:3

B. Psalm 133:1

C. Matthew 12:24-26

D. I saw a church go down because of disunity.

E. How can we keep unity?

1. By following the pastor

a. Pastor is not a dictator

b. But he is a leader and the church follows

(1) Flock follows shepherd, Acts 20:28

(2) Hebrews 13:7; Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17

c. If God had meant for the member to be pastor . . .

2. By a proper love for your church: "without the members loving this church, it will die."

a. Eph. 5:22-32

b. Meeting when it has services, Heb. 10:25

3. By praying for your church

a. Paul prayed for all the churches

b. Prayer changes things.

III. Church Must Have Faith

A. It will take faith to build a building

1. Psalm 127:1

2. If God builds this house, it will be a work of faith for that is God's only way.

B. Times will get discouraging

1. For the pastor, Jeremiah 20:7-9

2. For the people, 2 Kings 6:13-16

3. The victory comes by faith, verse 17

IV. The Church And Its Commission, Matt. 28:19-20

A. Going into all the world, Acts 1:8

1. Not just here.

2. By giving to missions

a. 10% I believe should be a minimum

- b. The church I saw go down!
 - c. The church I saw go up!
 - B. Baptizing them into the church
 - 1. Don't get them saved and forget them.
 - C. Teach them all things
 - 1. Get your folks out to prayer meetings.
 - 2. Get your folks out to Sunday School.
 - 3. Get your folks out to Bible Study
- V. Have A Zeal For The Lost
 - A. The church at Ephesus had lost its first love, Rev. 2:4.
 - B. The church at Laodicea was lukewarm, to be rejected by the Savior.
 - C. In this day we need churches who are on fire for God, who have faith in God, and who love Him and His work!
 - D. "Do this and thou shalt live." (Luke 10:28)

Lesson 12

WARNING UNTO THE LOCAL CHURCHES

Revelation 2:7 - Berlin Hisel

I. Introduction

- A. The local churches have many promises. We rejoice in them all. The local churches have many warnings. We had better heed them all.

II. He Speaks Of Nothing But Doctrine, Practice, Warning, and Promise

A. Let us here first notice Doctrine.

1. Against the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, 2:6
2. Against the doctrine of hypocrisy, 2:9
3. The doctrine of Balaam held, which was wrong, 2:14
4. Some held the doctrine of Jezebel, 2:20
5. Some were lukewarm, satisfied, 3:15

B. Let us notice next, Practice

1. Not able to bear with evil people, 2:2
2. Passing judgment upon false teachers, 2:2
3. Patience and labor for Christ's sake, 2:3
4. Patience in tribulation, 2:9-10
5. Holding fast Christ's name where Satan dwells, 2:13
6. Works - charity - service - faith, 2:19
7. Kept His word - not denied His name, 3:8

C. Let us next notice the Warnings

1. Return to first love, or lose the candlestick, Rev. 2:4-5
2. Leave Nicolaitanism and Balaamism or else, 2:14-16
3. Get fornication out or our children will be spiritually killed, 2:20-23
4. Hold fast what is heard, because He comes as a thief, Rev. 3:3

D. Let us notice last the Promises.

1. Three of life and the Paradise of God, 2:7
2. Crown of life, 2:10
3. Hidden manna, white stone, new name, 2:17
4. Power over the nations, 2:26-27 (Millennium).
5. White raiment, confession before Father, 3:5
6. Kept from the hour of temptation, 3:10 (Tribulation)
7. Pillar - dwell in New Jerusalem, 3:12 (Bride)
8. A chance to repent, have Christ's communion, 3:19-21

III. He Knows Our Works, So Let Us Not Try To Fool Him

- A. Instead of pretending to be doctrinal, Let's be doctrinal
- B. Let us search out the hypocrites, 2:2

- C. Though other churches fail, let us not fail.
- D. May it be said of us, “well done,” Matt. 25:21

Lesson 14

THE SUPREME TASK OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Psalm 68:11 - Berlin Hisel

- I. Introduction
 - A. To teach and preach the Word of God. All also is secondary.
- II. This Task Is An Honorable One!
 - A. This church delivers a message received from none other but God.
 - 1. The message comes not from an earthly headquarters
 - 2. We may truly appropriate the apostolic boast of 2 Cor. 5:20
 - B. Barth and Brunner said the Bible witnesses to the Word of God
 - 1. This rather than the bible is the Word of God
 - 2. Thus, they say a preacher cannot really proclaim the Word of God.
 - 3. He can only witness to it. Prophets said, "Thus saith the Lord."
 - 4. Read Paul's words in 2 Tim. 4:1. [Some teach] church is a mediator between God and man.
 - 5. We do not approve of freelance evangelism.
- III. This Task Is An Urgent One!
 - A. Our church is to declare to men the truth of the Bible
 - 1. How the bible is a book of salvation
 - 2. Its message is salvation centered though there are other doctrines.
 - B. So our task is to proclaim salvation
 - 1. Is not that an urgent task? Men are perishing every day.
 - 2. What other name is there for salvation, Acts 4:12)?
 - C. It is an urgent task, because Christ is coming again
 - 1. We are to pray for His second coming.
 - 2. It will come about when His Word is preached everywhere, Matt. 24:14.
 - 3. Therefore let us preach it. When He gets back, our time is over.
- IV. This Task Is A Comprehensive One!
 - A. Our church must declare all the counsel of God, Acts 20:27
 - 1. This does not mean I am to preach a sermon of each chapter in the Bible.
 - 2. The bible is not a collection of an isolated truth, but truth as a unit.
 - 3. We must proclaim sin - salvation - service.
 - B. Our church is to preach to the saved and the unsaved
 - 1. A church stressing evangelism and missions to the neglect of its members is wrong
 - 2. Also true that a church with no missions is in the process of dying.
 - C. Ordinarily preaching is directed to adults only
 - 1. Few churches take seriously the task of presenting the Word to children.

2. Most Sunday Schools make feeble attempts at best.
3. I think we fail in this area ourselves. Children will be our adults.

V. This Task is An Exclusive One!

- A. This task has been assigned churches and none else.
 1. In fact, we better beware of taking on any other task.
 2. Boards - societies, etc., operating independently of church control - beware!
- B. The local church must conduct public worship
 1. Preaching the Word is the center of public worship
 2. Even the ordinances are preaching the Word.
 - a. They adds nothing to the Gospel message, but reinforce it.
 - b. "Show forth" - proclaim, preach, etc., 1 Cor. 11:26
- C. Caring for the poor is to be subordinate to preaching the Word.
 1. Let us read here carefully Acts 6:2.
 2. Too much social Gospel rules out the blood.

VI. It Is A Task To Take Seriously

- A. All members are to put their church work first
 1. They are to assemble together, Heb. 10:25
 2. They are to tithe to make the work possible.
- B. All members are to be concerned about others
 1. There will be no preaching to the lost if no vision
 2. There will be no growth in our church unless all are concerned

Conclusion:

If we do not take our task seriously who will? What if God removes this task from us? Let us thank Him for our privileged task! Let us labor as never before!

Lesson 15

ANCIENT LANDMARKS Proverbs 22:26 - Berlin Hisel

- I. Introduction
 - A. Trails known by landmarks, etc. Some Baptist landmarks
- II. Christ Our Founder, Matt. 16:18
 - A. Christ built a church; let's find it
 - B. Christ is the Head, Col. 1:18
 - 1. We are to serve Him and not be followers of men, 1 Cor. 3:4-8
 - C. He is our Lawgiver, not man.
- III. The Bible Is Our Only Authority, 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - A. Our Baptist seminaries are forgetting this.
 - B. Do not do something because I said it but because the Bible says it.
- IV. Its Government - Congregational
 - A. Every member counts one vote, [1 Cor. 12:27].
- V. Its Members Only Saved People
 - A. Some say "Let's have anyone on our roll."
 - B. We open our doors only to the saved [Acts 8:37]
- VI. We Have Two Ordinances
 - A. Believer's baptism, [Acts 8:37-38].
 - B. Lord's Supper, [Matt. 26:26-27]
- VII. We Have Two Offices
 - A. Pastor, 1 Timothy 3:1-7
 - B. Deacon, 1 Timothy 3:8-16
- VIII. Our Work - Matt. 28:16-20
- IX. Financial Plan Through Tithes And Offerings
 - A. Not pie suppers, etc.
- X. Salvation By Grace Through Faith Alone
 - A. Join this landmark movement

Lesson 16

HOLY SPIRIT - THE GLORY DEPARTED

Psalm 87:2-3; 1 Samuel 4:21 - Berlin Hisel

I. Introduction

- A. Should ***Ichabod*** be written above the church door?

II. Most Would Tell Us It Has Not Departed

- A. A larger percentage hold membership in churches
 - 1. The church, they say, is advancing from glory to glory.
 - 2. Constantine “clothed the church in purple in 323.”
 - a. Church membership became the fashion.
 - b. History is not repeating itself.
- B. Many great leaders are filling churches: Bishop Sheen, Normal Peale, etc.
 - 1. Peale and Sheen have them joining churches for peace of mind.
 - a. Power of Positive Thinking
 - b. Only true way to achieve peace is by Christ’s atoning blood.
 - 2. William Franklin Graham’s preaching is phenomenal
 - a. By it many thousands are being led into the churches.
 - b. Sad that many are going into churches denying Christ.
- C. Most go to church to be tranquilized.
 - 1. Sound doctrine should be church’s program
 - 2. The glory of God and not us should be the aim of worship.
- D. The world has always opposed true churches and always will
 - 1. The struggle from Christ’s day has been perpetual.
 - 2. The world today regards most churches harmless.
 - a. Sad reflection upon a church.
 - b. If it were strong and active, the world would oppose it, Matt. 5:10-12

III. Worldliness Has Beset Our Churches

- A. The term worldliness is used loosely today.
 - 1. Many who use the term cannot define it.
 - 2. They would say “specific amusements” and the mode of feminine dress.
- B. True worldliness is hardly recognized as worldliness
 - 1. It is to count greatness as the world is accustomed to.
 - 2. Numbers and not grace and knowledge is called greatness.
 - 3. True, lively stones and not costly structure is glorious.
 - 4. Each year requirements for membership are lowered.
 - 5. Special attractions and membership drives take the day.
 - 6. This is the worst kind of worldliness.

- IV. Modern Dispensationalism Is Partly Responsible
 - A. The Scofield Bible has weakened the local churches.
 - B. Dispensationalism belittles the local church.
 - C. “Universal Church” takes the place of a real church.
 - D. The kingdom is given more importance they say.
- V. This holds many a good preacher
 - A. “He wist not the Lord had departed from him.” (Judges 16:20)
 - B. Dispensationalism holds truth considered “fundamental.”
- VI. Doctrinal Indifference Is Partly To Blame
 - A. A church is “the pillar and ground of the truth,” 1 Tim. 3:15
 - 1. This simply means a church’s job is to uphold the truth.
 - 2. Then they church’s worst enemy is indifference to truth.
 - B. Churches allow members who deny the most cardinal truths
 - 1. In most cases most churches are not even concerned about this.
 - 2. I am told, “Let’s worry about our own self.”
 - C. Doctrinal indifference leads to Modernism
 - 1. Modernism is middle-of-the-road attitude.
 - 2. Let’s be sure we don’t offend anyone.
- VII. Unconcern For Evangelism Is Partly Responsible
 - A. Its glory is seen as a church goes.
 - 1. What glory for Christ is seen when we sit still?
 - 2. A church should be self-reproducing - kind after kind.
 - B. This boils down to individual members
 - 1. Many times the pastor is not concerned.
 - 2. Many times the members are fearful and stingy.

Chapter 17

ISRAEL'S CAMP LIKE A CHURCH

Berlin Hisel

Introduction: Walks in midst of the candlesticks.

I. NOTE FIRST THE COMPARISON. CAMP - CHURCH

A. It Is a Camp For Separation

1. A camper is separated from traders, etc., especially from enemy of war.
2. So ought the churches of our Lord to be.

B. It is a Camp Because It Is On The Defensive

1. The Amalekites slew the hindermost part of Israel and see with us.
2. We must be armed at all times. When is a preacher off duty?

C. It Is Always Assailing the Powers of Darkness, verse 9

1. Learn - we are to go forth gainst our enemies.
2. It is not enough just to protect our own borders.

D. A Camp Is Like a Church Because We Are On the March

1. These Israelites were not dwelling in the desert.
2. We, as a church, are not at home. This is not our rest.

E. A Camp Was Formed For Temporary Purposes

1. While a church stands, individual members are subject to decay and death.
2. Soon the camp will cease - soldiers will then become citizens.

II. A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE. "THE LORD WALKETH IN THE MIDST"

A. This Walking Intends A Special Presence of Love

1. The Lord is present in His churches in a higher sense than He is in the world.
2. His delights are with the sons of man. It is the garden of the Lord.

B. Present With A Special Presence of Observation

1. He searches the heart of every professor of salvation.
2. He, no doubt, disciplines many. "Some are sickly and sleep, etc."

C. Also, a Special Presence of Salvation. "To deliver thee." TEXT

1. He will deliver His churches from the hand of evil.
2. Many are saved through His churches.

D. Also a Special Presence of Victory

1. One shall chase a thousand - God routes our enemies.
2. "Without Him we can do nothing." With Him everything.

E. In a Special Presence in Covenant. "The Lord thy God."

III. A CORRESPONDING CONDUCT. "THEREFORE SHALL THY CAMP BE HOLY; THAT HE SEE NO UNCLEAN THING IN THEE, AND TURN AWAY FROM THEE."

A. By This There Can Be No Laxity in the Camp.

- B. Every Unclean Thing Was To Be Put From Them.
 - 1. How discipline should be practiced!
 - 2. It is the Lore that wants to see no unclean thing.
- C. Not The Fearful Warning Which Is Added
 - 1. “Let He turn away from thee.”
 - 2. He often removed the candlestick out of its place.

Lesson 18

TERMITES IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

Acts 20:29-31 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: We have had a recent experience in our church with termites. Termites do damage. They destroy a building (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5). Spiritually God's house is a building. Often it becomes infested with human termites. They destroy what we labor so hard to build up.

- I. BUILDING UP PEOPLE IN THE FAITH, Jude 20; Col. 2:7
 - A. People are built up to attempt new work for God - to tackle a new task. To take a step by faith.
 - B. Joe Blow stands up and says, "Why, we can't do that."
 - C. He needs - the termite - to be exterminated!
 - D. The church labors to build faith to tithe, give, to visit, etc. Mr. And Mrs. Termite eats up all the labor.
 - E. We work building a foundation for some in saving faith - The termite concerned only with themselves tears it down.

- II. BUILDING A CHURCH FOR JESUS CHRIST
 - A. Read 1 Cor. 3:9-12; Eph. 2:22; 1 Peter 2:5
 - B. Termites would destroy it:
 1. Galatians 1:6-7; 5:10; Acts 15:24
 2. Everywhere Paul built, termites followed.
 - C. Talking to the lost about our problems.
 - D. Letting your children hear from you about faults of the church

- III. MAKING SAVED PEOPLE BAPTISTS, Matt. 28:19-20
 - A. We show the importance of church ordinances.
 - B. Termites destroy by saying baptism and Lord's supper aren't really that important.

- IV. SEPARATION FROM FALSE RELIGIONS AND DENOMINATIONS, 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Rev. 14:1-4
 - A. Christ wants His bride, the church, to be undefiled, Eph. 5:27; 2 Cor. 11:2-4
 - B. We teach that by practice, not inviting them to participate in our services.
 - C. You, termite, tear it up by practicing differently.

- V. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD AND WORLDLY CUSTOMS, 1 John 2:15; Rom. 12:2
 - A. We build by teaching against long hair and short dresses.
 - B. Termites - often teachers - or leaders - eat down this doctrine.

VI. SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND A LOVE FOR THE BIBLE

- A. We do this by labor - teach the Word in the classes.
- B. One teacher said, "I've not studied my lesson."
- C. Another said, "This is not interesting." Termites

Lesson 19

WHY ATTEND CHURCH, OR A SPIRITUAL RUNT Hebrews 10:25 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: Lack of food makes runts. Church members who do not come to be fed become spiritual runts!

I. ATTEND BECAUSE IT IS COMMANDED

A. Who is It That Has Given The Command?

1. Not an army officer
2. Not a school teacher
3. Not parents
4. Not a preacher
5. Not an employer
6. God, the Almighty

B. Has God The Right To Command Your Presence?

1. You are not redeemed with corruptible things . . . but blood, 1 Peter 1:18
2. You have right to rule over things you have made!
3. God created you and, therefore, has a right!
4. It is God who sustains you through:
 - a. Food
 - b. Shelter
 - c. Clothing
 - d. Medical care - doctors - medicine
5. Let God be dictator in your life.

C. Is This Command Unreasonable?

1. We do not have time during church time!
 - a. Do you have time to visit?
 - b. Swim?
 - c. Fish?
 - d. Picnic?
 - e. Ride through the country?
2. But, preacher, we always have company!
 - a. Is our company bad?
 - b. Are you ashamed for your company to hear this unlearned preacher?
 - c. Truth is, you have company because they now you will stay home from church!
Satan sends them!
3. Maybe you don't like to listen to me! Find a place.
4. We are sick on Sunday and Wednesday night!
 - a. A letter to an aspirin company.
5. We are just too tired to come to services! Shame.

- a. Did Christ quit His mission because He was tired?

II. ATTEND CHURCH BECAUSE GOD PUNISHES THOSE WHO BREAK HIS COMMANDMENTS!

- A. Adam and Eve Broke His Command and What Happened?
- B. The World Did, Too, As a Whole and What Happened? Flood!
- C. Ananias and Sapphira Did, Too, and What Happened. [They Died].
- D. Do You, Christian, Not Fear God?
 - 1. Suppose your home burns and you lose all?
 - 2. Suppose God withholds a good harvest?
 - 3. Suppose God takes one of your children?
 - a. I thank God I saw His chastening when I did!
 - b. Do not wait until He ships hard! Hear His scolding!
 - 4. Suppose you get an incurable disease and before death have a while to remember you broke God's command?
 - a. My own disobedience and fear then of God.
 - 5. Suppose You are shelved of God?
 - a. This is the most miserable Christian to himself and others.
 - 6. Suppose God takes you out of this world?
 - a. What of those whom you leave behind?
 - 7. Suppose because of your breaking this command one of your children goes to hell? God have mercy on you!
 - 8. Suppose you have no rewards?

III. ATTEND BECAUSE GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO KEEP HIS COMMANDS!

- A. He Blessed Abraham For Leaving Us!
- B. Thomas Didn't Attend and Missed Seeing Jesus!
 - 1. The blessing of His presence is great.
 - 2. There is a blessing in seeing folks saved – don't miss it.
- C. It Is Here You Grow Out of Being A Runt!
- D. It Is Here We Hear About the One Who Loved Us!
- E. Let The Lost Attend Because It Is The Most Logical Place To Be Saved!

Lesson 20

THE CHURCH AND THE TRUTH

1 Timothy 3:15 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: Church has lost splendor. The reason is because of a general low view of truth.

I. A CHURCH IS THE PRODUCT OF THE TRUTH

A. Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled In A Church

1. It was said God would turn to the Gentiles, Isaiah 42:6
2. Zion in Old Testament often prophetic of the church, Psalm 9:11

B. It Was The Product Of The Truth Preached By John the Baptist.

1. What was to become of those he turned to Christ?
2. What was to become of those he baptized?

C. It Was The Product Of Jesus' Preaching

D. It Was The Product Of The Holy Spirit's Truth

1. The first church was no fully completed in Christ's time.
2. Holy Spirit yet guided them into truth - church epistles.

II. A CHURCH IS THE CONVEYOR OF THE TRUTH

A. On Rare Occasions God Has Used Angels

1. In Old Testament He used Israel and prophets.
2. Angels first proclaimed His birth and resurrection.
3. Ordinarily God uses human beings - His churches

B. Churches Today Are God's Voice To The Truth

1. Bible societies, clubs, etc., are good in prospective.
2. Churches are not to present their opinion, but truth.

III. CHURCHES ARE CUSTODIANS OF THE TRUTH

A. In the Old Testament Israel Had The Oracles, Rom. 3:2

B. Today A Church Has This Blessing And Responsibility, 1 Tim. 3:15

1. This is why we are to contend for the truth, Jude 1:3
2. Truth has been "protected" by churches through time.
3. What truth we have we owe to churches of the Lord.

C. There Have Been Times When Churches Took This Task Seriously.

1. During the first century they protected truth from pagan Rome.
2. During "Dark Ages" from apostate Christianity.
3. Today there are a few who "contend" for truth.

D. Most Churches Today Fail Upon This Point

1. False teachers are allowed in churches.
2. Many say doctrine is not to be preached.
3. We should be more concerned about truth than peace.

4. Truth used to be dear among churches.
- E. Will Churches Ever Pass Out of Existence?
 1. No! Though many individual ones do.
 2. Truth will be here when Christ comes.

IV. IS A CHURCH TO BE AN INTERPRETER OF TRUTH?

- A. Teachings Or Councils Of A Church Never Equal With Bible
- B. However, Truth Is Not To Be Interpreted By Only One.
 1. If a majority of a church feel a things true, that is OK.
 2. Many churches only one - interprets for all
 3. If the church votes, stand behind it.
 4. Great interpreters of truth have belonged to churches.
- C. Don't Laugh At The Sovereignty Of A Local Church

V. CHURCHES ARE TO BE PROCLAIMING OF THE TRUTH

- A. Our Most Important Task Is Preaching The Word
 1. Preaching never to be replaced by programs.
 2. Many have no preaching in order to present a play, etc.
- B. Some Would Have Individuals Preach Rather Than A Church
 1. Many evangelists not ordained - not sent out by a church.
 2. Paul and Barnabas were sent by a church, Acts 13:1-3
- C. Preaching Includes All The Bible, Acts 20:27
 1. Preaching involves explanation and application of the Word, Neh. 8:7
 2. Real Bible preaching is a thing of the past.
- D. Preaching Involves of Necessity The Great Commission

Lesson 21

THE CHURCH WHICH CHRIST BUILDS

Matthew 16:18 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: Many men have built churches. We are not concerned with them. Christ built a church. We are concerned about that one!

I. A BUILDING: MY CHURCH!

A. The Church Of This Text Is No Material Building

1. Not made of wood, brick, stone, or marble.
2. It is a company of men and women.
3. It is made up of lively stones - 1 Peter 2:4-5
4. Churches were sometimes in houses - slides, eating, etc. 1 Cor. 16:19; Rom. 16:5
5. It is called the "body of Christ," Col. 1:18
6. It is referred to as "a bride" - a flock.
7. It has many members, 1 Cor. 12:18-27

B. Of a Necessity - It Must Be Local

II. NEXT LET US SEE "A BUILDER." I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH.

A. It Is Of No Value Except The Lord Build It. Psalm 127:1

1. We had better let Christ do the building. A return to the New Testament - church of Christ bulletin." Human authors wrong.
2. We must also let the Lord add, Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:18
 - a. We should be careful of human schemes
 - b. We should obey God's plan, Acts 2:46
3. The Master Building" Makes No Mistakes In Building
 - a. "Wisdom hath builded her house," Prov. 9:1
 - b. True - we have work to do; but God gives the increase, 1 Cor. 3:7

III. LET US NEXT NOTICE THE FOUNDATION - "This Rock"

A. Christ Is The Foundation, 1 Cor. 3:11

1. This rules out all foundations of works whatever.
2. The real foundation is a Costly one.

B. The Foundation is Very Strong, "A Rock."

1. The wise build upon a rock, Matt. 7:24
2. Whatever else can bear the weight of our sins?

IV. PERILS IMPLIED - "THE GATES OF HELL"

A. By This We understand The Power of Satan

1. Satan has always battled Christ's churches
2. It is a sad mistake to think church will be at peace.

- B. Marvel Not At The Enmity Of The Gates Of Hell, John 15:19
- C. Be Prepared For The Enmity Of The Gates Of Hell
 - 1. The weapons of our warfare have been proven by millions, 2 Cor. 10:4
 - 2. Put on the whole armor - study - fight, Eph. 6
- D. Be Patient Under The Enmity Of The Gates Of Hell
 - 1. It all works together for our good, Rom. 8:28
 - 2. Trials and assaults should drive us closer to God.
- E. Be Not Cast Down By The Enmity Of Hell.
 - 1. Remember - no cross no crown; no seat no sweet.
 - 2. Read Matt. 5:11 - No persecution - no true church.

V. NEXT SECURITY - "THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL"

- A. Empires Have Fallen. Egypt - Assyria - Babylon - Persia - Greece - Rome
- B. The Mightiest Cities Have Become Heaps of Ruins
 - 1. Ninevah
 - 2. Babylon
 - 3. Thebes
 - 4. Tyre, etc.
- C. Individual Churches Have Fallen
 - 1. Many are weak - some are strong
 - 2. We need to lean heavily upon our Head, even Christ.

Lesson 22

WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST? 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: How many church members could answer this question? How many preachers?

I. WHAT IT IS NOT

A. Universal Invisible Church

1. Where Does It Meet? Heb 10:25
2. Who are its offers?
 - a. Treasurer: Judas was one!
 - b. Deacons
3. How can it Suffer and rejoice with each other, 1 Cor. 12:26
4. How can it administer the ordinances?
 - a. Baptism
 - b. Lord's Supper

B. Universal Visible Church

1. The bible Speaks of Individual Churches
 - a. Corinth - Ephesus - Galatia churches - Romans - Philippi - Laodicia - Samaria churches.
2. We have no man as our head except Christ only.

II. WHAT THE CHURCH REALLY IS

A. A Group of Baptized Believers

1. Baptism necessary to church membership
2. A local church - individual group
3. We are the "body of Christ.," 1 Cor. 12:27

B. The Best Illustration Of The Church Is The Human Body

1. Some are the heart, some arms, toes, fingers, eyes.
 - a. When one hand is hurt, the other offers comfort.
 - b. When gangrene sets in, it must be amputated.
 - c. The body gets directions from the head. We get directions from Christ, our Head.

C. We Have A Commission

1. Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel, Mark 16:15
2. Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Matt. 28:18-20
3. Teach them to observe all things commanded by Christ, Matt 28:18-20
4. Christ is with His churches until the end of the world (this age), Matt 28:18-20

Lesson 23

CHURCH ATTENDANCE Isaiah 49:20-21 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: Memories of the past, the blessings of the present, and the promises of the future are full of good cheer.

- I. IN A CHURCH THERE ARE DECREASES. "I HAVE LOST MY CHILDREN."
 - A. Death Invades The House of God
 1. Pillars and ornaments sometimes are taken away.
 2. Their departure is to Heaven's glories
 - B. Providence Takes Away Useful Persons By Removal
 1. Occupation - job changes
 2. Removed to other churches to work, etc. - following God's will.
 - C. Sin Causes Many To Become Inactive
 1. Some backslide and wander away.
 2. Often 1 John 2:19 fits their cause.
 - D. NOTE: This decrease is painful and often we feel desolate and alone (text). Yet we are sure the Lord has not forgotten His church.

- II. IN A CHURCH WE SHOULD LOOK FOR INCREASES. "THE CHILDREN WHICH THOU SHALT HAVE."
 - A. Increase Is Necessary If We Are To Have A Church
 1. Notice the turnover in our own church.
 2. Without additions this church wouldn't be here.
 - B. Increase Is Prayed For, and God Hears and Answers Prayer.
 - C. Increase Can Only Come Through God
 1. If we, of ourselves, cause the increase, all will fail.
 2. When God, through us, increases, He will be glorified.
 - D. Increase Is Promised In Our Text and Others.
 1. Psalm 126:6; Gal. 6:9; 2 Cor. 9:6
 2. Eccles. 11:1. Seedtime always means a harvest!
 - E. Increase Is To Be Labored For
 1. The pastor - the teachers - the membership
 2. "As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth children," Isaiah 66:8

- III. INCREASE IN THIS CHURCH OFTEN CAUSES SURPRISE
 - A. Because of the time. "Behold, I was left alone," Isaiah 49:21
 - B. Because of the number. "Who hath begotten me these," Isaiah 49:21
 - C. Because of their former character. "These, where had they been" 21
 - D. Because of their stickability. "Give place to me that I may dwell" 20

- IV. CHURCH INCREASES SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR. A MOTHER MAKES READY FOR HER CHILDREN. SHOULD THE MOTHER CHURCH DO LESS?
- A. We Prepare by Intense United Prayer For It.
 - B. By The Proclamation Of The Gospel
 - 1. The Gospel is the means of the new birth, 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18
 - 2. Pass out tracts - give names for church paper, especially visit and tell it by mouth.
 - C. By Enlarging Our Bounds
 - 1. I have reference to missions and missionaries.
 - a. Our field is the world and not just [our local area].
 - D. By Welcoming All True Born Children Of God Into Our Midst.
 - 1. We must teach the babes.
 - 2. We must be kind, friendly to them and to each other.

Lesson 24

EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE

Psalm 127:1 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: I am a Baptist because Christ built our church.

I. DIFFERENT FOUNDERS OF OTHER CHURCHES AND YEAR

- A. Roman Catholic
 - 1. Constantine
 - 2. 313 AD
 - 3. Things that followed - Rev. 2:6
- B. Lutheran Church
 - 1. Martin Luther
 - 2. 1520
 - 3. Persecuted Baptists
- C. Presbyterians
 - 1. John Calvin - Brilliant man
 - 2. 1536
 - 3. Some beliefs: Infants host - sprinkling - Universal church
- D. Methodists
 - 1. John Wesley
 - 2. 1739
 - 3. Some beliefs.
- E. Christian Church
 - 1. Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone
 - 2. 1827
 - 3. Some beliefs
- F. Church of God
 - 1. John Winebreuner
 - 2. 1825
 - 3. Some beliefs.

II. CONDITION OF THE DIFFERENT GROUPS

- A. Their Baptism Is No Baptism
- B. They Are Not Churches According To The New Testament Meaning

III. IS ONE CHURCH AS GOOD AS ANOTHER?

- A. If you believe that, take your letter.
 - 1. We couldn't grant a letter.
- B. Unto Him Be Glory In THE church, Eph. 3:21

- IV. ARE WE TO VISIT OTHER CHURCHES?
 - A. Would You Let Your Wife Go With Another?
 - B. We Are The Wife of Christ
 - C. This Would Make Us A Stumbling Block

Lesson 25

THE GREATEST HOUSE IN HARRISON

2 Timothy 2:20-21 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: There are many great houses in our town. Put them all together and they are not as great a house as our church

I. LET US CONSIDER FIRST THE GREAT HOUSE

- A. This Church Is A Great House Because It Belongs To a Great Person
 - 1. This is the temple in which the Lord is worshiped. His castle.
 - 2. Place of defense for His truth - the armory where He supplies His soldiers.
 - 3. Great house because it is the house of a great God, 1 Tim. 3:15
- B. Great House Because Planned And Designed Upon A Great Scale
 - 1. I fear many who live here have no idea how great it is.
 - 2. Its columns quarried by grace from rough mass of human nature.
 - 3. Angels delight to study its plan - this church is no narrow cottage.
- C. Great Because It Has Been Erected At Great Cost And Great Labor.
 - 1. Its price is beyond price - God's only Son - Who can tell its cost? Acts 20:28
 - 2. Solomon's temple - the labor and cost - very little compared.
 - 3. What labor - harder than granite - our hearts - He fashioned and squared us.
- D. Great Because Its Household Arrangements Conducted On A Great Scale
 - 1. Solomon kept a great house - much food - daily table great.
 - 2. This house has the best food. Angel's food; fat things full of marrow
 - 3. Here we have a perpetual feast. If any hunger they have no appetite.
- E. It Is A Great House Because Of Its Importance
 - 1. We think of the White House as great because of its business.
 - 2. Here is where God distributes His bread - directs His battles.
 - 3. Haven for wayfarers; hospital for sick; lighthouse for direction
 - 4. University for teaching; library for books of God; treasury where truth is deposited.

II. INSIDE THE HOUSE WE SEE A NUMBER OF MEANER VESSELS

- A. In This House Are Those Who Are Vessels To Dishonour
 - 1. Earthen, wooden vessels - cannot represent saints. We are to purge.
 - 2. They are not the treasury of this house. Satan does not seek them.
 - 3. How they got here? False professions, ignorance, excitement, etc.
 - 4. Elect him a deacon, teacher, preacher - no honor to any man.
- B. These Vessels In This Great House Are Of Some Use
 - 1. They are watchdogs to keep others awake and on our toes.
 - 2. Quarrelsome members help to scour other vessels
 - 3. Dead trees prop up young, living ones. False professors don't make false Gospel.
- C. Notice These Vessels of Dishonor Are Not For The Master's Use

1. "All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold."
 2. Would the King of kings set an earthen vessel on His table?
 3. So false professors are of use to servants, not the Master.
 4. Service to Jesus after earthen vessels are made gold or silver.
- D. In These Vessels The Substance is Base
1. By nature we are all earth and nothing more.
 2. Wooden vessels easily hacked and carved and spoiled.
 3. False teachers soon chip them and break them to pieces.
 4. I'm sorry to say - many such vessels are in this house.
- E. These Vessels Require Much Care On The Part Of Your Minister
1. Quarrels in their families must be settled else they become scandals.
 2. Those vessels are like china or egg shells
 3. Trying to keep them right is a job. Give little, vote much.
 4. Better the smallest silver vessel than the largest vain of professor.

III. INSIDE THIS HOUSE WE SEE THE NOBLER VESSELS

- A. These Are First Of All Of Solid Metal
1. They are not all equally valuable, but they all are precious
 2. They are worth treasuring and will last for ages.
 3. To fashion them took skill, mining, and searching, furnace work, tact and labor.
 4. The hand of God touches them to fashion them.
- B. On Vessels Of Honor You Can See The Hallmark
1. "... let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from . . ." verse 19
 2. See also verse 21. True Christian seeks to be purged; same for church.
- C. Notice That They Are Purged
1. The Lord will not use filthy vessels on His service.
 2. From gross sin and doctrinal error - association with perverse people.
- D. Notice These Gold and Silver Vessels Are Reserved As Well As Purged
1. They are meet for the Master's use. What honor to be used of God!
 2. We won't be used when there is too much "I" about us.
- E. Next We Shall Be Ready For Good Work, verse 21
1. Ready for the work when it comes; ready at it when it has come.
 2. In this readiness we shall be honored.
 3. Man may despise us, but it matters not if God honors us.
 4. This height of grace may cost - gold must be tried in the fire.

IV. FOR NOW LET US SPEAK OF THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE

- A. He Is In The Midst Of This House
1. He walked among the candlesticks in the Revelation, Rev. 1:13
 2. His Spirit indwells us in power
- B. The Master Knows All About The House And The Vessels
1. He cannot be deceived with wooden vessels
 2. He knows when the cup is not of gold.

Lesson 26

TEACH THEM TO OBSERVE

Matthew 28:20 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: Just teaching a church all things is not enough. They must be taught to observe all things.

I. SOME THINGS TAUGHT TO OBSERVE THAT CHRIST NEVER COMMANDED

A. Christmas As Christ's Birthday

1. Christmas plays where birth is
2. Look at the Nativity scenes in front of churches - Baptists?
3. Church bulletins and church prayers teach this.
4. When was Christ really born? Who knows?

B. Easter As The Commemoration Of Christ's Resurrection

1. Seen in the "Sunrise Service" - To picture empty tomb.
2. The resurrection is about all that is preached on that day.
3. In the Bible - He arose on the 1st day of week, Matt. 28:1
4. Read Gal. 4:10 - "No Easter egg hunts at church."

C. Churches Teach To Observe There Is A Santa Claus

D. Teach Women To Observe Speaking Out In Church

1. Elect them song leaders, clerks, superintendents, etc.
2. Call them to pray in church - ask them questions, etc.
3. Read 1 Cor. 14:34-37 and 1 Timothy 2:8-15
4. Women have a great work doing what God commanded.

E. Teach Them To Observe Immorality and Laxity

1. A man committed fornication and bragged on, 1 Cor. 5:1-5
2. Those who sin are not rebuked before others, 1 Tim. 5:20
3. Churches teach people to observe dress customs
4. Churches need to toughen up and knuckle down.

II. SOME THINGS CHRIST COMMANDED US TO OBSERVE

A. Salvation By Grace Through Faith, Eph. 2:8-9

B. Baptism By Bible Example

C. All Doctrines Found In The Word

1. Confession
2. Sanctification
3. Second Coming

Lesson 27

CHRIST'S LOVE WORK FOR HIS CHURCHES THREEFOLD

Ephesians 5:21-33 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: The love work of Christ for His churches is seen in three tenses: past, present, and future.

I. THIS LOVE AS SEEN IN THE PAST TENSE

- A. He Gave Himself For It, Eph. 5:25; Eph. 5:2; Acts 20:28
- B. This Is Seen In His Past Protection Of The Churches
 - 1. The persecutions of the Jews (Judaism)
 - 2. The persecution of the Roman Empire (100-313 AD)
 - 3. The persecution of the Roman Catholic Church (313 -)
 - 4. Persecution of Protestants - Reformation Age.
 - 5. Now and recent past by Baptists so-called.
- C. This Is Seen In His Past Love For Individuals Who Make Up The Churches
 - 1. Romans 5:6 Past Time
 - 2. Romans 5:8 Past Tense
- D. Because He Bought Us We Should Love The Church
 - 1. 1 Cor. 6:19-20
 - 2. 1 Cor. 7:23

II. THIS LOVE AS SEEN IN THE PRESENT TENSE!

- A. This Is Called A Cleansing, Eph. 5:26
- B. This Is Said To Be Done By The Word, 5:26
 - 1. Cleansing is sanctification, John 17:17
 - 2. Sanctification of Individuals is by the Word
- C. Does His Word Build Up Or Cleanse?
 - 1. Christ said so, John 15:3
 - 2. His Word cleansed lepers and sinners.
- D. If Christ Is Preparing His Churches By The Word For Something. Future, What Is Our work?
 - 1. Preachers, teachers, etc., we are to edify the body of Christ, Eph. 4:11-12
 - 2. All things are to be done in the church unto edification, 1 Cor. 14:26
 - 3. This is to be done on the basis of the Word of God.
- E. Many Build Today With Untempered Mortar, Ezech. 13:10
 - 1. Churches today build with entertainment
 - a. Gospel celebrities - former crook - actor, etc.
 - b. Circus performers or a cowboy - jumper, etc.
 - c. Big singing groups, drinking - smoking and jazzed-up songs - bands, etc.
 - 2. This is untempered mortar and will fail when Satan goes up against it.

3. BUILD UPON THE WORD OF GOD

III. THIS LOVE IS SEEN IN THE FUTURE TENSE

A. Presented As Christ's Bride, Eph. 5:27

1. Explanation is seen in Adam's bride, verses 30-32
2. From Adam's body came Eve, his bride, Bone of his bone.
3. From Christ's body comes His bride - side pierced.
4. What is Christ's body?
 - a. His churches, Col. 1:18
 - b. The faithful out of the churches will compose His bride.¹

B. The Marriage Is Described in Psalm 45:10-11; 13-15; Rev. 19:6-9

¹There are many opinions concerning the Bride of Christ doctrine. No matter what position you take, remember that the word "bride" is never used in reference to the church, but the teaching is learned by studying the nature of the bride.

Lesson 28

CHURCH AND PASTOR - ATTITUDES

Berlin Hisel

Introduction: There must be a right understanding between pastor and church for the church to function properly.

I. HOW CAN A CHURCH KNOW HOW TO SELECT A PASTOR?

A. Considered Negatively First

1. Not by some board
2. Not by some organization

B. A Church Should Let The Holy Ghost Lead It

1. A pastor is placed in charge by the Holy Ghost, Acts 20:28
2. One may ask, "How does the Holy Ghost do this?"
 - a. A church should seek by prayer to learn God's mind, Phil. 4:6
 - b. Surely no church would try without praying to select.
 - c. God gives a pastor's qualifications in 1 Tim. 3:1-7
 - d. A firm and frank understanding between pastor and seeking church should be had
 - e. No deception on either side - both tell all.

II. HOW CAN A CHURCH KNOW WHOM TO SELECT AS PASTOR?

A. A Church Should Not Use The Standards Of Men

1. He must be a good mixer. Some are more concerned about the preacher talking to men than God.
2. He must be popular with the young people.
 - a. He should love the young people
 - b. He should love the old people
 - c. Some churches want their pastors to know how to conduct a wiener roas than to know how to give the strong meat of the Word.
3. Worldly churches set an age limit and degree
4. David wasn't chosen by men's standards
 - a. Jesse's
 - b. Samuel's
 - c. His brothers

B. A Church Should Use God's Standards Set In The Word.

1. Read 1 Tim. 3:1-7
2. Titus 1:5-9

III. WHAT SHOULD BE THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHURCH TOWARD THE PASTOR?

A. The Church Should Obey Its Pastor, Heb. 13:17

1. By virtue of his office he is a leader
 - a. Holy Ghost made them “overseers,” Acts 20:28
 - b. What does “take care of the church” mean?
 - c. Taking the oversight means what? 1 Peter 5:2
 - d. “Elders that rule well” means what? 1 Tim. 5:17
2. A pastor is not to be a dictatoe
 - a. Dictators don’t last long in nations or churches
 - b. A leader infers he is to be followed
3. If you don’t follow the pastor, then whom do you follow?
 - a. The deacons?
 - b. The other officers?
 - c. This means division.
- B. The Church Should Remember Its Pastor, Heb. 13:7
 1. The pastor should be remembered in prayer
 - a. If his sermons don’t help you, pray for him.
 - b. If his mannerisms offend you, pray for him.
 - c. Prayer for him in earnest will change him or you.
 2. Remember Him By Respecting Him
 - a. No member should talk about the pastor except in the presence of two or more witnesses, 1 Tim. 5:19
 - b. If your pastor is wrong, someone must go to him
 - c. Hold in reputation, Phil. 2:29
 - d. Esteem them highly, 1 Thess. 5:12-13
 3. Remember him by supporting him.
- C. The Church Should Stand Behind Their Pastor
 1. Stand behind what he preaches
 - a. You don’t have to agree with him
 - b. Telling other members he is wrong causes division
 - c. If he preaches false doctrine, ask him to leave.
 - d. It won’t take a 2/3 vote for me to leave.
 2. Stand behind him by attending services
 3. Stand behind his Scriptural endeavors
 - a. If he feels lead to start missions, support him.
 - b. If he feels it is right to support missions more, stand behind him.
 - c. NOTE: If you can’t stand behind and follow your pastor, ask him to leave - you aren’t fair to him or yourselves.
- D. Stand Behind Him By Loving Him
 1. Love him for the right reasons
 2. Love him for the truth he preaches, Gal. 6:6
 3. Some people want to teach their pastor.
 4. Love me for truth and not mannerisms, etc.
- E. Stand Behind Him For He Watches For Your Souls, Heb. 13:17
 1. Members I watch for spiritual decay and warn.

2. We watch for the souls of lost men also.

Lesson 29

A PASTOR'S LEGACY 1 Thess. 2:7-9 - Berlin Hisel

Introduction: Every pastor should leave something behind with his church when he goes. They should not have to start all over. Leave a great appreciation for the Gospel.

I. WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR MEN'S HATRED FOR THE GOSPEL?

- A. It Discovers Their Works of Darkness
 - 1. "Lest their deeds should be reproved," John 3:20
 - 2. The Gospel is light - men hate light, love darkness
- B. Because Sinners Under The Gospel Can't Sin, So Cheap
 - 1. Drunkard can't be drunk at so cheap a rate.
 - 2. The Sabbath breaker is made uneasy
- C. Because the Gospel Puts Persons Upon Very Hard Service
 - 1. Pulling out a right eye - cutting off a hand - offering up an Isaac
 - 2. Casting Jonah overboard - parting with bosom lusts and daring sins.
- D. Because of the Distinguishing Work The Gospel Makes Among Men
 - 1. It softens one and hardens another
 - 2. It enlightens one and strikes the other blind
- E. Because Satan Hates The Gospel
 - 1. Like Father, like son
 - 2. Satan and his children know the Gospel will finally prevail.

II. WHEN THE GOSPEL GOES FROM A PEOPLE, WHAT GOES?

- A. Peace - Plenty - Truth - communion With God
- B. Safety And Security Goes When the Gospel Goes
 - 1. Jews rejected the Gospel - the Romans came and took away their city.
 - 2. When the ark was taken away - Israel lost.
- C. When The Gospel Goes, Civil Liberty Goes
 - 1. The Jews slighted the Gospel, and they became bondslaves.
 - 2. Take one good look at America
- D. When It Goes, Honor and Glory, Splendor and Beauty Goes
 - 1. The glory is departed from Israel, 1 Sam 4:21
 - 2. Jeremiah 2:11-13 "What about America"
- E. When the Gospel Goes, Soul Happiness and Blessedness Goes
 - 1. The Gospel is God's appointed means of salvation = happiness
 - 2. The Gospel gives assurance = happiness

III. WILL GOD MOVE THE GOSPEL FROM AMERICA OR FIRST BAPTIST?

- A. It Has A Rooting In Hearts Of Sinners And Saints

- B. There Are Many Preachers Anointed Of God To Preach
- C. All Other Past Attempts To Destroy The Gospel Has Failed
- D. All Attempts To Destroy The Gospel - The Advance of Gospel
- E. Multitudes of Children Fall Under Gospel Promises
 1. Deut. 30:6
 2. Psalm 112:2

IV. I SHOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU SOME LEGACIES

- A. Secure Your Interest In Christ. Make Him Your Work And Business
 1. Rest not in a name to live when you are dead
 2. Rest not in outward form or outward privileges
- B. Make Christ and Scripture the Only Foundation Of Your Faith
- C. In All Places And company Carry Your Soul Preservative With You
 1. These are holy care and vision
 2. This will keep you from being infected
- D. Let All Opposition And Persecution Raise Your Faith, love, Courage, Zeal, Resolution, etc.
- E. Take More Pain to Keep Yourselves From sin Than Suffering
- F. Be Always Doing Or Receiving Good
- G. Set Before You The Highest Examples And Pattern of Grace
 1. In faith set an Abraham before you
 2. In course, a Joshua
 3. In meekness, a Moses
 4. In patience, a Job
- H. Hold Fast Your Integrity, Job 27:5-6 – Moral Ethics
- I. Let Not A Day Pass Without Calling The Whole Man To Account
 1. Head - what have you been thinking today?]
 2. Hands - what have you done for God today?
 3. Tongue - what have you spoken for God today?
- J. Labor Mightily For A Healing Spirit
 1. Heal divisions
 2. Hurts and wounds, etc.
- K. Be In The Spiritual Exercises Of Religion
 1. They are hearing - preaching - praying - meditation
 2. Self-judging - self-trial - examination - holy practices
- L. Take No Truths Upon Trust, 1 Thess. 5:21
 1. The Bereans didn't take Paul's word for it
 2. All must agree with the law and the testimony, Isaiah 8:20
- M. The Fewer Opportunities You Have In Public To Enrich Your Souls The More Address Your Souls To God In Private
- N. Walk In The Ways Contrary To Sin And The World
- O. Look Upon The Things Of This World As You Would Look Upon Them When You Come To Die

P. Never Answer Your conscience With an Argument That Won't Stand At The Judgment Bar.