

7/26/2020

Today we are starting a new unit: “Why Do I Need the Church”

I think all of us that attend church and Sunday school on a regular basis enjoy the fellowship and the sharing of our faith.

As you read these scripture verses and think about the Unit topic, jot down the reasons you attend church, or why you don't. Be honest with yourself. It might cause you to rethink your stand.

Today's scripture: Ephesians 1:20-23; 2:8-10, 19-22

WE ARE JOINED TOGETHER

Ephesians is a letter that Paul wrote to people he knew. We know that Paul was a church planter; and he was continuing to lift up the people and to encourage them to “stay the course” of following Christ's teachings. He wanted to re-enforce the point that when we come to Christ, we become a part of the body of Christ, the Church.

He was telling the church in Ephesus that they could receive the power of the Father Almighty that raised Jesus from the dead. The Resurrection of Jesus was at the center of Paul's preaching, teaching, and the Christian faith. Paul continues to stress that we serve a Living Christ, far above any other ruler. We need not fear this world if we are one with Christ. Surely, we are concerned with the way the world is going, but we can achieve peace in our life if Christ is at the center.

Paul is also telling the church - us - that all of this is free. We can't earn it. It is God's gift. As believers who have been saved through the blood of Christ, we can remember the drastic change we experienced. Salvation in Christ is the solid foundation for being a member of the church.

We know, as Christians, that we are saved by grace through faith and

not by works. We do not earn divine favor by trying to impress God with our deeds. These good deeds should be a natural result of salvation. We should be eager to do good works. Being an active member of the church should unite each believer in one goal: sharing the Word and Love of Christ to all we come in contact with.

We often refer to the church as "God's House." We sometimes admit feeling closer to God in church. That in itself is not bad, but we need to carry that feeling into the world and share it with those we come in contact with.

Here are three things that members of God's house, the church, should consider:

1 - Your mind needs to be free of any wrong attitudes about individuals in the church,

2 - Ephesians 1:20-23 speaks of Christ's power and authority. Have you submitted to His control?

3 - If you are not a member of a local church, you are missing a place where the Love of God and fellowship with believers will help with the problems of the world that we face every day.

We, as a congregation, are adding on to our fellowship hall. Some have been coming by each day to see the progress. Soon we will complete the project, and to signify completion we will add a cornerstone. Within that cornerstone will be items of importance to the church on the date of erection.

In this lesson, Paul called Jesus the Cornerstone, the faith on which our church is built. Jesus said: "Upon this Rock I will build my church." Jesus was speaking of the Apostle Peter's belief and all of the people of faith that followed after Him (Christ).