

2-25-1978

A Search For The Ideal Church

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A SEARCH FOR THE IDEAL CHURCH

I. GOD ONCE HAD A GREAT DREAM: * Eph. 1:3-4.

1. A pre-earth dream. V.4.a.
2. A plan to bless His spiritual family. V.3.a,1
3. A chosen place: A spiritual kingdom. V.3.c.
4. A chosen people: Holy and blameless. V.4.b.
5. An acceptable spirit: Love. V.4.c.

GOD'S DREAM according to Sir Douglas Haig:

"The church of Christ is the world's ONLY social hope, and the sole promise of PEACE." (Edw.p.93)

II. JESUS ONCE HAD A GREAT DREAM: * Eph. 1:5-10.

1. A pre-earth dream. Build a church!! V.5.
2. A plan to bring praises to God. V.6.
3. A chosen people. Different!! Clean! V.7.
4. A chosen purpose. Heaven's wisdom. V.8-9.
5. An acceptable family. V.10.

CHRIST'S DREAM according to Simon Peter:

"Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of God, who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." I Pet. 2:9.

III. GOD'S CHILDREN HAVE A GREAT DREAM: IDEAL CHURCH

A. Ideal church: *Eph. 4:11-15. Spr. Maturity!!

B. Four Earmarks of the Ideal Church:

1. **Scripturally Correct: (Acts 2:36-41.)**
 - a. Built by gospel preaching. 32-36.
 - b. Entered into by obedience. 37-41.
2. **Doctrinally Accurate. (Acts 2:42.)**
 - a. Studied the Bible! God's Word. Honest.
 - b. Generous & liberal in Sharing their worldly goods--Fellowship.
 - c. Lord's Supper weekly. Acts 20:7.
 - d. Prayers. **The early Christians' FIRST resort; too often OUR LAST resort.**
 - e. Eph. 5:19. Col. 3:16. Speaking, teaching, admonishing and praising.
3. **Socially Satisfying: (Acts 2:43-45.)**
 - a. Purpose of conversion is Spiritual, not Social.....BUT.... V.44.....
 - b. Where one Attends Worship TODAY, with many choices, often IS determined by the warm, welcome, social aspect!!!
(No wee-ness, no oneness, no wantness, will Go Away!!! Ideal: WANT YOU!!!)

4. **Spiritually Comforting: (Acts 2:46-47.)**
 - a. United in the One Faith: Eph. 4:1-6.
 - b. Blended in the One Spirit: Acts 2:47a.
God first: Matt. 22:37. Self last.
Church first: M. 6:33. Self last.
Others first: Acts 2:45. Self last.
 - c. Thrilled by exciting growth! 47b.

IV. WHAT IDEALS MAKE CHURCHES GROW TODAY??? **High Price**

A. A LOOK AT AMERICA'S LARGEST BIBLE SCHOOL:

Average weekly attendance: 5,762.

Largest C of C: Madison, : 3,000.

1. Intense jealousy for LOST SOULS! Fanatics!!
(If takes fanaticism to grow: want to grow?)
2. Extensive Visitation. 3,000 VISITS a week.
(If growth for MT required 11 visits this week, you want to grow.....?)
3. Promotion! Talk, teach, preach, print, call, campaign, drive, exhort, persuade insist, wart, bother and worry people!!!!
(Do you want to promote urgent-insistence in order to grow???.they do!)
4. Bussing. Our success will be EXACTLY equal to our energy expended. 50¢ + 50¢!
(Do you want to grow if it means YOU get into the bus ministry at Midtown?)
5. Tithing. Funds needed to teach world about Jesus. Christian-way better than Jewish way
If so, then 10% is only the Beginning?
(Do you want to give MORE, & MORE & MORE in order to grow & grow & grow.....???)
6. Separation From Worldly Influences.
Willing to set a HIGH goal? Matt. 16:24-27.
(Willing to deny SELF in order for the Lord's Church to grow???? THEN WILL GROW!)

INV: Most dangerous disease on earth today is not cancer, leukemia nor heart-disease: But SIN!!!
Ultimately will destroy the soul forever!

Jesus died on the Cross so YOU could be cleansed and become a part of HIS church & GROW!!!!
Heed Acts 2:38 today. Please!!!

OUT OF DUTY or OUR OF HARMONY with God's will?
Matt. 22:37. I John 5:3. Repent & return!!!

2-II 1B
2-26-78 AM
MT