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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,b.
3. A chosen place: A spiritual kingdom. V.3.c.
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.
2. A plan to bring praises to God. V.6.
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.

   a. Studied the Bible! God's Word. Honest!
   b. Generous & liberal in Sharing their worldly goods -- Fellowship.
   d. Prayers. The early Christians' FIRST resort; too often OUR LAST resort.

   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!!
      Church first: M. 6:33. Self last.
   c. Thrilled by exciting growth! 47b.

IV. WHAT IDEALS MAKE CHURCHES GROW TODAY???

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 or 500!
   (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.......??)

   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, lukemia 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?