The Church In God's Eternal Purpose

Robert Harkrider · Ephesians 3:10–11 · Series: **The New Testament Church**

INTRODUCTION

- The Bible speaks of the church as being the body of Christ. A relationship that believers in Christ share.
- Where did all the churches come from to start with? Do we read about them in the Bible, the Word of God?

1 One Body, No Divisions

John 17:20–21; 1 Corinthians 1:10–13; Ephesians 4:3–6

- That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.
- I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing. That there be no divisions among you.
- There's one body. Just as there's one baptism. Just as there is one faith. That's God's plan.
- The only way that's possible is to put away human opinions and human creed books and come back to the Word of God and simply say, let us do what the Bible says without addition and without subtraction.

2 The Church in God's Eternal Purpose and Plan

Joel 2:28–32; Isaiah 2:2–3

- The origin of the church was in the mind of God hundreds of years before Jesus Christ came in the flesh.
- It is not the work of men. It was not even an afterthought of God, but rather it's in God's eternal purpose and plan.
- Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered, shall be saved. Or in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall deliverance be.
- It shall come to pass in the last days. That the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established forever in the top of the mountains. It shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it.

3 A Kingdom Which Shall Never Be Destroyed

Daniel 2:44; Jeremiah 31:31–34

- The days of the fourth empire, the days of the Roman Empire, shall God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.
- There has not been a world empire since the Roman Empire, but God's kingdom continues to this very day.
- Behold, the days come, said the Lord, that I'll make a new covenant with the house of Israel with the house of Judah.

- For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more.

4 The Time Is Fulfilled: A Spiritual Kingdom

Mark 1:15; John 18:36; John 3:5

- Jesus came to the time of the Roman Empire, during the fourth kingdom of which Daniel had foretold.
- My kingdom is not of this world. For my kingdom were of this world, then will my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews.
- Except a man be born of water and the Spirit. He cannot enter the kingdom of God.
- If you're in God's kingdom, it's by spiritual birth. That's not physical.

5 The Kingdom Come With Power

Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38

- There are some standing here who will not taste of death till they see the kingdom come with power.
- Either Jesus didn't know what he was talking about, or else the kingdom has come with power.
- You shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you.
- And when the power came, we know the kingdom then was established.
- Repent and be baptized. Every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

6 Already in the Kingdom of His Dear Son

Revelation 1:5–6; Colossians 1:13–14; Hebrews 8:13

- God had delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son, in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.
- If you're forgiven of sins by the blood of Christ, then you're in the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- What God had said about the Lord's body of believers, we must follow without change.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Consider with me the very fact of your own soul's condition. Are you right with God?**

MY NOTES