

WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH? (Ephesians 1:22-23)

I. The foundation is right.

- A. Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church about which we read in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 3:11).
- B. Whenever we build on anything other than Christ we are to be considered foolish (Matthew 7:24-27).
 - 1. Many in our world have built spiritually upon someone other than Christ.
 - 2. Those foundations crumble away because they are of human origin.
- C. When the foundation of a building is faulty or unstable, eventually that building will collapse.
 - 1. I recently read of a wind farm that was being built on which construction had to stop because of faulty foundations on the various turbines.
 - 2. The concrete where the turbines bolted to the concrete was faulty and would have caused those turbines to fall.
- D. When one relies on Jesus and His word and bases his/her life on Him, there will be no falling or collapsing.

II. The faith is right.

- A. We are to contend for the faith (Jude 3).
 - 1. "The faith" is simply the gospel message of Jesus.
 - 2. It is the doctrine we find in the New Testament.
- B. That this is true can be seen by the wording of Acts 6:7.
 - 1. We are to obey the gospel message.
 - 2. This is what saves and this is what those priests did.
- C. The gospel is God's only power to save (Romans 1:16).
 - 1. The message of hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, being baptized and living faithfully is the only message that will save a soul from sin.
 - 2. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is the only gospel message that will save.
- D. The church has the right message because that message is Jesus (Acts 8:35).

III. The fellowship is right.

- A. The early church spent time together because they realized they were a new family in Christ.
- B. One of the greatest blessings we have as Christians is the fact that we get to be with fellow Christians.
 - 1. We need to take every opportunity to be with one another.
 - 2. We need to try and be with other brethren as often as we can.
 - 3. One of the great blessings of being able to preach is the opportunity we have to meet brethren in other places.

4. Those that travel come back talking about brethren they met while worshiping away while on a trip.
- C. There are many passages that talk about togetherness:
 1. We suffer together (1 Corinthians 12:26).
 2. We rejoice together (Romans 12:15).
 3. We help carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).
 4. We pray for one another (Romans 15:30).
 5. We forgive each other (Ephesians 4:32) and these are just a few of the things we do together.
- D. It is a great joy to be a Christian who gets to help one others along the way to heaven.

IV. The focus is right.

- A. The focus of the church is souls.
- B. The soul is invaluable (Matthew 16:24).
 1. I like the show "Storage Wars."
 2. The other night they were asked to value certain objects.
 3. You can't put a value on the soul.
- C. Because the soul is priceless, we ought to be fixated on souls (Mark 16:15).
- D. When Jesus saw the masses He viewed them as souls and was moved with compassion towards them (Matthew 9:35-36).
- E. Paul, because of his love for souls, prayed for the lost (Romans 10:1).
- F. The focus should not be on money, although that is important.
- G. The focus should not be on numbers, although that is important.
- H. The focus should be on getting the gospel to a lost and dying world so they can have the opportunity to hear and obey.

V. The future is right.

- A. When Jesus returns, He will come for His church (1 Corinthians 15:24).
 1. He is coming to unite us with the Father.
 2. He is coming to unite all the saints together in one place for all eternity.
- B. There is no greater future than this.
- C. The future is dazzlingly bright for the church.
- D. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.
 1. Did you notice the last phrase of that passage?
 2. "So shall we ever be with the Lord."
 3. What words of comfort and hope those are.
 4. We will forever be with the saints and our Lord.
 5. Nothing will come that would separate us again.
- E. The way to ensure that we enjoy this bright future is to live now for the One who made it possible (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

From an outline by Mark Posey.