



GOD'S GREATEST GIFTS: HIS FAMILY

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (12-6-09 - AM)

Text: Ephesians 2:19-22



Introduction: Where would we be without the gift of the church? This group of Christians comprises so much more than just an assembly, we are a family! Today, we are going to study about God's family

Discussion:

I. The Church Is A Gift From God

- A. God planned this gift from eternity (**Ephesians 3:10-11**).
- B. God planned this gift for all mankind (**Ephesians 3:20-21**).
- C. The prophets spoke of this gift (**Isaiah 2, Joel 2, Micah 4**).
- D. John the Baptist spoke of this gift (**Matthew 3:1-2**).
- E. Jesus spoke of this gift (**Matthew 16:17-19**).

II. The Church Is A Good Gift

- A. We have salvation in the church (**Acts 2:40-47**).
- B. We have reconciliation in the church (**II Corinthians 5:8-10, Ephesians 2:16**).
- C. We have identification in the church (**Ephesians 5:22-33, Acts 2:40-47**).
- D. We have justification in the church (**Acts 20:28, I Timothy 3:15**).

III. The Church Is A Perfect Gift

- A. It is perfect in its organization.
 1. Christ, of course is the Head of the church (**Ephesians 5:22-33**).
 2. Elders oversee, feed the flock (**Acts 20:28, I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, I Peter 5:1-4**).
 3. The deacons work and serve the flock (**I Timothy 3:8-13, Philippians 1:1**).
 4. Evangelists teach and preach God's word (**I & II Timothy, Titus**).
 5. Autonomy and love binds us together (**Philippians 2:1-5, Jude 3, Galatians 5:1**).
- B. It is perfect in its worship.
 1. We worship in spirit and in truth (**John 4:23-24**).
 2. We meet on the first day (**Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:1-2, Hebrews 10:24-25**).
 3. We worship with a cappella singing (**Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16**).
 4. We pray (**Acts 2:42; I Timothy 2:1-2; I Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:16**).
 5. We edify one another with preaching and teaching (**Ephesians 4:16, I Timothy 4:14**).
 6. We take communion (**Acts 20:7, Hebrews 10:24-26, I Corinthians 11:20-31, 16:1-2**).
 7. We take a collection (**I Corinthians 16:1-2, II Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:7**).
- C. It is perfect in its purpose.
 1. We believe in seeking and saving the lost (**Luke 19:10**).
 2. We believe in fulfilling the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:19-20**).
 3. We believe in remaining faithful to the church (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).
 4. We believe in remaining faithful to God (**Revelation 2:10**).
- D. It is perfect in its work.
 1. We believe in performing service (**Matthew 7:12**).
 2. We believe in using our gifts (**Matthew 25:14-30**).
 3. We believe in doing good works (**John 15:1-8**).

Conclusion: Are you thankful for the church? Are you an active part of the Lord's family?

WORD OF THE DAY = "CHURCH"