

The Church...In His House

Colossians 4:15-16

Intro:

- A. We know that Jesus personally established His church on this earth.
 - 1. The members had three qualifications.
 - 2. They were believers, they had John's baptism, and they responded to His call to forsake all and follow Him.
 - 3. Jesus was the Head and the instructor.

- B. After His sacrifice, His burial and His resurrection He sent His Apostles into the world to institute other congregations. They were a Church.
 - 1. They had His authority.
 - 2. They were to teach, baptize, and teach.
 - 3. The people who responded were to become churches and these churches would continue this work. They would, each of these congregations, become His body and He would be each churches head. They would have authority to teach, baptize, and teach. They would send out men.

- C. In Paul's letters we see how quickly and how well this worked.
 - 1. There were many congregations.
 - 2. They needed divine spiritual information.
 - 3. This was given in three ways. The Apostles, personal instruction, in congregation Prophets, and inspired letters. These inspired letters became the 27 books of the New Testament.
 - 4. What about these early churches?
 - 5. What about the "church in Nymphas' house"?
 - 6. The had a "house church" we have a "church house."

I. Was This A Real Church?

- A. Paul called it a church.
 - 1. It was an ἐκκλησία.
 - 2. It had a place to meet.
 - 3. It had members.

- B. Was it embryonic?
 - 1. simply an undeveloped, immature shadow?
 - 2. If it was not a "real" church, what did it need to become one?

II. Was It a Good church?

- A. What they had.
 - 1. They had enough members.
 - 2. They had enough room.
 - 3. They had enough money.

- B. They worshipped God. Col 3:16
 - 1. The words of Christ were central.
 - 2. They taught one another.
 - 3. They admonished one another.
 - 4. They sang songs and spiritual hymns.

- C. What would have made it better?
 - 1. A large elaborate building?
 - 2. Choir Robes?
 - 3. Separating it into specific groups with special agendas? see Col 3:11
 - 4. Would you have had suggestions?
 - 5. Would you have joined it?

III. What Was To Be Its Guide?

- A. There were three sources.
 - 1. The Apostles.
 - 2. In the Church were spiritual gifts.
 - 3. "This epistle", "the epistle".

- B. How much room did God allow for human ingenuity and innovation?
 - 1. Be sure and develop your own good sense programs.
 - 2. Your needs will dictate your actions.
 - 3. Use basic human nature. (needs).

IV. Does Time Change Things?

- A. If so, What does it change?
 - 1. Does time change mankind?
 - 2. Does time change sin?
 - 3. Does time change God?
 - 4. Does time change truth?
 - 5. Does time change the church?

- B. Must the church, "change with the times so it can meet peoples needs"
 - 1. What do people need?
 - 2. Are the needs social or spiritual?
 - 3. What is the work of a New Testament?
 - 4. Article: "The Benton Courier" Friday, May 15,

1992.

A 13-week study that is entitled "Building Your Mate's Self-Esteem" will begin May 31 at Holland Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Benton.

Thirteen pre-planned sessions are reinforced through the leader's guide, student notes and marriage-building homework projects for couples to take home and apply to their own marriages.

The sessions will include an introduction; three sessions focusing on The Foundation for Self-Esteem; three sessions on Putting Your Past in Perspective; three sessions on The Impact of Words; and three sessions on Pleasing Your Mate.

The majority of class time will be spent viewing video presentations. Class participation is encouraged, but is always voluntary, according to the leaders, Dennis and Barbara Rainey of Little Rock.

The couple has co-authored "The Homebuilders Series", "Lonely Husbands," "Lonely Wives," and "Planting Seeds."

In 1976 he joined the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ International and in 1976 helped found The Family Ministry, of which he is currently director.

Barbara Rainey has been on staff with Campus Crusade since 1971.

The couple has six children.

