

Scripture: Malachi 1

CoF 27 (1)

Singing: 265:1-3 – 237:1-3 – 350:1-4 – 275:1-2

The Church: Jesus Christ's Sacred Body

Intro: The 'glory' of the Christian Church

A. The Church is God's most sacred and precious possession on earth

1. Meditate upon Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:6; Heb. 12:22; 1 Peter 2:5; Rev. 22:17

2. None learned this more than Paul: Acts 9:4

3. Summary: *The Church's roots are eternal (Eph. 1:4) and united to Christ through Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13), consisting of believing Jews and Gentiles in one body (Eph. 3:1-11), being prepared and waiting of the marriage feast in glory (Eph. 5:26-27; Rev. 21:2).*

B. All this teaching is beautifully gathered into articles art 27-35 of CoF

1. The Lord's Body is the *Christian Church* on earth and in heaven

2. Greatest transforming power and blessing in our current culture would be the Christian Church according to the Biblical NT standards

3. Would the Lord Jesus be happy to 'join' us?

a. would He repeat John 2:14-17 and John 3:3, 5?

b. would He remind us of 2 Peter 2:1-2; 5, 9?

C. What is the secret key to revitalize Christian Churches?

1. It is the same secret key as in Acts 2:47b; 4:4; 5:14 (John 10:16)

2. It is the same message as Malachi 3:3-4 because of Malachi 1:6-8; 12-13 and Haggai 2:10-14

3. It is 'do everything' according to the Book so we don't grieve the Holy Spirit

a. the early Christians welcomed *all* to attend the preaching

b. but the early Christians did not welcome *all* to join the Church

D. What about Jesus teaching in Matthew 13:24-30?

1. Jesus points out the reality: *till He comes back, hypocrites will slip into body*

2. Jesus also teaches: *beware of the 'false'* Matt. 7:15-20; Acts 8:20-22

E. If we desire to see God's Church healthy, we need to insist on John 3:3-7

which is the fulfilment of God's prophesy in Jeremiah 31:31-34!

Reflection: *What 'member' of **Christ's body** are you?* 1 Cor. 12:13