

Lectures re Church

October 24, 2012

Lecture 3 – The Church: Then where do I find it?!

1. If must join where Christ working, how determine? So many churches to choose from!
 - a. Options? Personal taste (music, liturgy), friends, family, where raised....
2. Back to Scripture: “we believe”
 - a. “true” = ‘right and true’ = legitimate, genuine
 - i. Point: are counterfeit, illegitimate efforts → 2 Corinthians 11:14f
 1. Examples: Num 16:19; 1 Kings 12:25ff; Acts 20:30; 1 John 2:19
 - ii. How determine which legitimate? Marks:
 1. Preaching: Romans 10:17. Recall ‘apostolic’
 - a. Pure ≠ perfect; = undiluted truth, unmixed; cf 1 Kings 12:25ff; John 10:4f, 10:27; ∴ Acts 20:27, 20
 - b. ∴ responsibility of pew to guard pulpit.
 2. Sacraments
 - a. What: Word in pictures
 - b. Why: depravity, cf Genesis 17:10f; Exodus 12:14,24-27
 - i. Signs: illustrations, same message
 - ii. Seals: official, personal
 - c. Number: two – Baptism & Lord’s Supper
 3. Church Discipline
 - a. Ignore preaching not characteristic of redeemed, ie, sanctified. See marks of Christians
 - b. If ignore:
 - i. Personal responsibility
 - ii. Communal responsibility: Genesis 4:9; Leviticus 19:17; Mt 18:15; Galatians 6:1 → Ps 141:5
 - iii. Pastoral responsibility: Lev 18:29; Dt 17:2ff; Mt 18:16-19; 1 Corinthians 5:4f, 13.
 - iv. Excommunication
 1. Save sinner, 1 Cor 5:5b; 1 Tim 1:18ff.
 2. Prevent corruption, cf 1 Cor 5:6
 3. God not dishonoured, cf 1 Cor 5:1
 - iii. In Sum: where Lord is! ∴ fault with Jeroboam in 1 Kings 12:28,31,32.
 - b. “false” = counterfeit, illegitimate before God
 - i. ≠ go to hell! 1 Corinthians 5:12f
 - ii. Examples: Numbers 16:19; 1 Kings 12:25ff
 - iii. Marks: More authority to self than to Word, cf 1 Kings 13:4; 13:18; Acts 4:18; 5:40; Rev 2:9 ∴ faith not built up.
 3. Which church true?
 - a. You to answer!
 - i. Not individualistically
 - ii. Bear in mind church history. Ie, important is not only *point* where a church is today, but also *trajectory* of its current travel.
 - iii. Christ not bound to one particular federation.... Channel of His church gathering work can move from federation to federation, or even start new federation. You need to walk in step with Christ!
 - b. Arrogant to call own church true?? Judgmental to term another false?

Feel free to text in questions to 289-440-1489