



WHAT KIND OF CHURCH IS THIS?

What Kind of Church is This?

Part 3

May 21, 2023

The Book of Hebrews 10:19-25, ¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is

the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of God’s Words today, in Jesus Name! Amen.

1. We are the Kind of Church that is Anchored in the Word and not the World!

- a. The Gospel of Saint John 17:13-19, “¹⁸ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”
- b. Note the Words of Christ found in verses 16-17, “¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. “

- c. Friends, we will never find truth in this world! We will never be able to build our lives upon the things of this world! The term “sanctify” noted here in verse 17 simply means to be “set apart”. It is the truth of God’s Word that sets us apart; it is the truth of the Word that draws us out of the World and into His Kingdom. His Word sanctifies us!
- d. Church, the Bible is clear in Isaiah 40:8, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”
- e. There is only one sure anchor! Only one foundation upon which we can stand! Only one source of truth in this world and it is the Word of God! The Lord is calling us to be sanctified unto His Call by embracing His Word!
- f. Remember, Christ is calling His Church to be Anchored in the Word and not the World! Point #2...

2. We are the Kind of Church that is Anchored in the Promise and not the Past!

- a. The Book of Philippians 3:12-16, “¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹⁸Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do:

forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.”

- b. One of the great needs for us all is to be delivered from our rear view mirror; how much further would we all be down the road of faith had we focused forward rather than looking back in forlorn and regret? Friends, the promise that is ahead of us is far weightier and beneficial than those things that lie behind us!
- c. This is why we must be anchored to the Promises of God and not the Problems that Christ died to deliver us from!
- d. My greatest encourage to you all today is simply this! Stop crucifying yourself over and over again over a matter that Jesus was crucified for to deliver you from! Friends, His Blood is almighty for a reason!
- e. Your mistakes are not all mighty! Your sins are not all mighty! Your failed relationships are not all mighty! Your bondages and addictions are not all mighty! Your brokenness is not all mighty! The Blood of Christ is almighty and your past doesn't get the last word! The One who died for you does!

f. Remember, we are the Kind of Church that is Anchored in the Promise and not the Past because the King has one more move! Point #3...

3. We are the Kind of Church that is Anchored in Encouragement and not consumed by Discouragement!

- a. The Book of Hebrews 6:17-20, ¹⁷“So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”
- b. Note with me verse 18 in this passage of text, ¹⁸“so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.”

- c. Church family, a faith assassin is found in the atmosphere of discouragement. Discouragement can destroy any forward momentum in the arena of faith because discouragement drives us to simply stop and give up.
- d. I love the television show “Alone”; you have heard me make reference to this before. Friends, there is a psychology to surviving difficulty. A person can have the physical, mental and intellectual capabilities necessary to survive a difficult situation but emotional stability is the very tight rope that one must master if one intends to survive.
- e. There has been a multitude of contestants who quit prematurely or simply break down mentally which leads to their removal from the show. And here’s the thing about this show; you have to qualify to go on the show by demonstrating physical health and capabilities as well as a mental and intellectual capacity. But the endurance of all contestants is their mental and emotional faculties. And the same can be said of our faith, we can have all the right tools, understand and instruction but our state of courage determines our state of being.

- f. Remember the words of the writer of Hebrews, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.
- g. May we today commit to garnering strong encouragement in the Refuge of Christ in so that we may hold fast to the hope that has been set before us! And in closing, Point #4...

4. We are the Kind of Church that is Anchored in the Call and not the Crisis!

- a. The Book of Acts 2:42-47, “⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

- b. Crisis! This word seems to be a buzz word when it comes to news and media because we seem to be surrounded by crisis. Financial crisis. Banking crisis. Food crisis. Societal crisis. The list seems to go on and on; but Church, though it is prudent to be aware of what is going on around us, we must never allow matters that are external to destroy the symbiosis of what Christ is doing internally!
- c. If one were to simply look at this time in human history, post the resurrection of Christ and His subsequent resurrection, it would be easily ascertained that the church being birthed in Acts 2 was surrounded by crisis.
- d. A religious crisis of the religious elite of Judaism seeking to stop the explosive growth of the church by targeting its leaders.
- e. A government crisis because you had three different ruling sectors all overlapping in the same region; Roman Government, Judaist Kings and Governors who were puppets, and the religious leadership of the Temple; Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Scribes.
- f. But in spite of all of this conflict and crisis, the Church never allowed Crisis of Society to deter the Call of the Church! The Church was healthy because it was a Church on mission. And friends, we are going to be the Kind of Church that is Anchored in the Call and remains on Mission!