

**I. REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS SESSION**

**A. The local church provides supernatural protection for those who are connected to it.**

**B. The number one way that God's protection is connected to the local church is through the pastor.**

**C. Types of Protection**—The protection of the local church may be compared to a covering.

**1. Doctrinal Protection**

**2. Protection Through Prayer**

- Paul prayed for believers.
- Pastors pray for believers.
- Pastors have jurisdiction to pray for their sheepfold.
- Members of the local church have a greater place of prayer for others in the same church.

**3. Impartation**

**II. THE VICTORIOUS CHURCH**—Every believer is part of the body of Christ—the Church.

**A. What Is This Church?**

**1.** Sadly, for many the only thing this means is to be on the way to heaven and miss hell for eternity.

**2.** However, there is SO MUCH MORE to being part of the Church.

**B. When God created the "CHURCH", He created the most powerful entity that would ever exist—on earth and in heaven—aside from the Godhead.**

**1. The self-image of the Church / How we view the Church**

- a. "Self-Image":** Refers to the mental picture or perception that an individual has of themselves. It encompasses beliefs, thoughts, and feelings about one's own identity, appearance, and worth.

- b. The Church has a SELF-IMAGE.
  - It is imperative that the Church possess the accurate mental image or perception of herself!
  - What we believe about ourselves **as the CHURCH** determines if we are *really* what God intends for us to be.

### 2. Nancy Harmon's Song: "Blood Bought Church"

*Select verses and chorus:*

And we are in the that army of the Lord.

We've been washed in the blood, and we are going forth.

There is nothing that can stop this mighty moving force.

With a shout of praise, a two-edged sword.

[Verse 3]

Ev'ry stronghold of bondage must fall beneath our feet.

Ev'ry prisoner held captive must be free.

For our deliverance has come through the power of the Son.

It's the blood-bought, the church, the redeemed."

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *Although many churches were singing this song, they didn't really possess this INNER IMAGE of the Church personally.*

### 3. How do people see themselves as part of the Church?

- a. While many within the Body of Christ recognize their value and see themselves as vital members of the Church.
- b. However, others perceive the Church, not as a strong and powerful force, but as one weakened by the challenges of our times. These view the Church as:
  - A struggling group of people trying to make it to heaven.
  - A weak group surviving the harsh times in our world.
  - No different from anyone else on the planet—sickness, weakness, poverty, tragedy—all come to the Church the same as anyone else.
- c. This is **not** supposed to be the self-image of the Church!
  - We must see ourselves in the VICTORY that Christ purchased for us!

**4. Paul's Prayers for revelation:**

**a. Ephesians 1:16-23**

**NKJV** "...do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him**, the eyes of your **understanding being enlightened**; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when **He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet** and gave Him *to be* head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

**b.** Paul was praying that the Church would receive TRUE revelation of their position and power available in Christ so that they would be able to TAKE THEIR PLACE in MANIFESTING VICTORY at ALL times.

- This is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!
- It is mighty power. Far above all principalities, powers, might, dominions, and every name NOW and TO COME.
- This power put ALL things under Jesus' feet.

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *When Paul is praying for us to get the right image of the power that is available to us, it is interesting that he speaks of the greatness of power that was required to raise Jesus from the dead. It was more than enough power to raise Him above all other power sources in the heavenlies.*

- *For Jesus to be raised from the dead, He needed power that would overcome ALL opposing forces.*
- *The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is in us.*
- *The same power that raised Jesus from the dead to overcome all opposing spiritual forces is the same power that operates in the Church. We are a mighty moving force!*

c. Seated with Christ:

- Paul continued his statements in the same context—*the victorious power that is working in the Church.*

- **Ephesians 2:4-7**

**NKJV** “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **and raised us up together**, and **made us sit together** in the **heavenly places** in **Christ Jesus**, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

**PASTOR’S NOTE:** *The overwhelming majority of the Church only experiences one phase of this revelation. They are convinced of the new birth (made alive), but they have no understanding of what it means to be RAISIED UP TOGETHER and MADE TO SIT in heavenly places.*

*Ready for HEAVEN but NOT ready for REGNING IN LIFE!*

*THIS is the revelation that was lacking. Paul’s mission was to help the Church see its heavenly position: to rule and reign from the seat of victory.*

d. We are to reign in life!

- **Romans 5:17**

**NKJV** “For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”

**CEV** “Death ruled like a king because Adam had sinned. But that cannot compare with what Jesus Christ has done. God has treated us with undeserved grace, and he has accepted us because of Jesus. And so, we will live and rule like kings.”

**Weymouth** “For if, through the transgression of the one individual, Death made use of the one individual to seize the sovereignty, all the more shall those who receive God's overflowing grace and gift of righteousness reign as kings in Life through the one individual, Jesus Christ.”

- Through **Adam**, death ruled.
- Through **Christ**, we now rule.
- We no longer live under the reign of death. We reign over it.

e. Restoring Authority:

- Death reigned over us because of Adam, until we received the victory accomplished in Jesus.
- Death doesn't reign over me anymore.
- Now I do the reigning.
- BUT I must TAKE MY SEAT.
- My seat isn't just a seat of righteousness. **MY SEAT is a seat of authority.**

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *When Adam transgressed in Genesis, Satan gained authority—the seat of authority over the earth.*

- In **John 12:31, John 14:30, and John 16:11** the title “Prince of this World” is used.
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** “the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers.”

*During the temptation of Christ, when Satan offered the kingdoms of this world to Jesus if He would bow down and worship Him, Jesus NEVER CONTESTED this. Why? Because at the fall, when Adam transgressed, MAN WAS UNSEATED, and Satan acquired the seat of authority on earth.*

*When Jesus died, descended into hell, and arose again, He took back the seat of authority, not just for Himself, but for His Church.*

f. Christ's Triumph / Our Position

- Jesus took His seat and put the Church back in the seat of authority. **WE** are in the driver's seat.
- This is what happened when Jesus died and descended into the lower parts of the earth.
  - **Ephesians 4:8-10**  
**NKJV** "Therefore He says: 'When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.' (Now this, 'He ascended'—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)"
- Notice: He ascended **FAR ABOVE** all the heavens.
  - **Ephesians 1:19-23**  
**NKJV** "and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."
- This ascension is not limited to His being raised from the dead only. He is ascending to take His seat at the right hand of the Father. He ascends to the highest authority—above all principality and power and might and dominion. *There is no authority or dominion above Him!*
- Colossians adds revelation:
  - **Colossians 2:13-15**  
**NKJV** "And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He has made alive together with Him**, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was

against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

**AMP** "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross."

**CEV** "There Christ defeated all powers and forces. He let the whole world see them being led away as prisoners when he celebrated his victory."

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *This was the first ascension. There would be another ascension witnessed by those in Acts 1 who would see Jesus bodily ascend into the clouds. But this first ascension had already occurred, when He ascended out of Hades leading the forces of darkness captive and bringing SONS and DAUGHTERS with Him into complete freedom. He would ascend in triumph—as a parade—to the throne room of God and RECLAIM HIS SEAT. But not only His seat, He would reclaim OUR SEAT—the seat of earth's dominion that Satan claimed at the transgression of Adam. And now WE—the Church—being RAISED WITH HIM would be seated with Him in heavenly places to exercise dominion and authority as was planned from the beginning.*

*He ascended far above the heavens to reclaim the highest seat of authority*

*This is the great victory of the Church, accomplished fully in Christ, who is the Head of the Body and fills us with all in all.*

### III. CLOSING

#### A. The Church Seated in Victory

1. I have been raised—raised above—all principalities, powers, dominion, and might.

- a. When Jesus was raised above, I was raised above.
- b. The Church sits with Jesus (positionally in authority)!
- c. We are on earth in body but, in the spirit (in jurisdiction), there is nothing above us other than God Himself.
- d. He is SEATED, and we the Church are SEATED.
- e. Kings sit. Kings exercise authority.

### 2. Revelation 5:10

**KJV** "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *There will be a day that this is completely fulfilled in the new heaven and new earth. However, in the Spirit it is accomplished already. When we arose to new life, we were also raised with Him to be seated WITH Him in the heavenlies to exercise dominion and authority in the earth. **If the Church ever gets this, the kingdom of darkness will suffer tremendous loss.***

### 3. Local Churches

- a. Many prophecies have been given regarding strong local churches in the last days that will flow in the Word and the Spirit.
- b. God needs this type of church in every community to take dominion over the forces of darkness and demonstrate Satan's defeat throughout the region.

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *I believe God needs a local church in every region that has the right self-image. A people who know WHO they are and WHAT they have been given in Christ AND WHAT they can do.*

## B. Jesus gave as much insight as possible to those in His time on earth.

### 1. Luke 9:1

**NKJV** "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

**2. Luke 10:1**

**NKJV** “After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.”

**3. Luke 10:8**

**NKJV** “Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

**4. Luke 10:17-20**

**NKJV** “Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.’ And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.’”

**PASTOR’S NOTE:** *Don’t become devil minded. Stay position minded!*

**5. Matthew 16:19**

**NKJV** “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

**AMP** “I will give you the keys (authority) of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth will have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth will have [already] been loosed in heaven.”

**C. Conclusion:** The Church is not a weak, fearful, or struggling people. We are the victorious Blood bought Body of Christ, raised in seated with Him in heavenly places to reign in life and enforce His triumph and advance His kingdom on earth.