



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

• In the next  
several Sundays  
we will focus on  
a series of sermons  
relating to the  
Lord's church.

**The Church  
in  
God's  
Eternal Purpose**

- **Ephesians 3:21**
- **to him be glory**  
**in the church**  
**and**  
**in Christ Jesus**  
**throughout all generations,**  
**for ever and ever!**  
**Amen.**

- The church was in the eternal purpose of God.

- Before the foundation of the world

God laid out the plans and specifications by which and of which his church would be built.

(Ephesians 1:4)

- **He predestined the church!**

- **Ephesians 1:5**

**He predestined us  
to be adopted as his sons  
through Jesus Christ,  
in accordance with  
his pleasure and will**

- **That is God**  
**predetermined**  
**that man**  
**would be saved**  
**through**  
**Jesus Christ.**

• **When God  
created man,  
he knew  
the probability  
of mankind's  
fall.**



- God also knew His own righteous nature.

• God knew that He,  
as a righteous and just God,  
could not allow

ONE

single un-forgiven sin  
to go unpunished.

- God is a social God.
- Out of His own infinite nature of love and mercy He desired to have children of His own.  
(Romans 8:16)
- However, His children must be Holy for God is Holy.  
(1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:15)

- **Revelation 3:7**

**These are  
the words of him  
who is  
holy and true**

• True holiness  
is contingent upon  
responsibility  
coupled with  
the  
freedom of choice.

- So it was that within these divine principles that God created mankind.
- God created mortal man thus creating the necessity of a plan of redemption.
- The church was the solution to God's dilemma.

- This is a dilemma  
from man's viewpoint  
not  
from God's viewpoint.

- In Romans Paul wrote of the  
“foreordination”  
or “  
predestination”  
of God.

- Having made mankind of flesh & blood God knew of the possibility of sin.

- Remember that TRUE HOLINESS is based upon RESPONSIBILITY coupled with FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

- In anticipation of mankind's fall from **TRUE HOLINESS**  
God **purposed**  
or **predetermined**  
or **predestined**  
that salvation  
from such a fall  
would be **available** through  
**His church.**



- **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**
  - **from the beginning**  
**God chose you**  
**to be**  
**saved through**  
**the sanctifying work**  
**of the Spirit**  
**and**  
**through belief in the truth.**

- **2 Thessalonians 2:14**
- **He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

• **God decreed  
that salvation  
was only possible through  
FAITH  
in  
and  
OBEDIENCE  
to the  
GOSPEL.**

• **God  
made  
mankind  
free  
moral agents.**

• Therefore,  
mankind must  
through his own  
free will  
accept  
the gospel of  
Jesus Christ.

• Thus God  
ONLY  
justifies those who  
believe  
and  
obey  
the Gospel.

• **to him be glory  
in the church**

**and**

**in Christ Jesus**

**throughout all generations,  
for ever and ever!**

**Amen.**

• **Ephesians 3:21**

- **Ephesians 3:21**  
speaks of **5 things**:

- # 1 The **Being**  
to be praised.

- # 2 The **praise**  
to be offered.



- # 3 The sphere  
where the offering is to  
be made.

- # 4 The medium  
of the praise.

- # 5 The duration  
of the praise.

- The being  
to be praised  
is God.
- to him be glory
- Ephesians 3:21

- The praise,  
and  
glory  
is for the  
GRACE of GOD  
through  
Jesus Christ.

• The sphere  
for the offering of  
such  
praise and glory  
is the church.

• **The medium  
for the giving of  
praise and glory  
is Jesus Christ.**

• **The duration of the  
praise, and the glory  
is be**

**“unto all generations  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen”**

- **That is why the the Revelation letter pictures the worship of our Lord as being day and night:**

- **Revelation 4:8**

**and they rest not  
day and night,  
saying,  
Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God Almighty,**

- **ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**

- **Ephesians 1:3**

**Praise be to the God and  
Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, who has blessed us  
in the heavenly realms with  
every spiritual blessing  
in Christ.**



- **NO HOPE**
- **Ephesians 2:12**  
**without Christ,**  
**without hope,**  
**without God**  
**in the world.**

• **To have hope  
one must be in  
in Christ  
and  
in the church.**

**(Ephesians 2:12; Acts 2:47)**

• No glory  
can be given to God  
through a  
man-made church  
or through a  
fraternal order  
or through  
a social club.

- **Ephesians 3:14-15**

- **For this reason**

**I kneel before the Father,  
15 from whom his whole  
family in heaven and on  
earth derives its name.**

• Paul prays for the  
spiritual enrichment  
of the  
Ephesian saints.

- **Ephesians 3:16**

- **I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,**

- **Every individual has**  
**two beings:**  
**the outward**  
**and**  
**the inward.**

• The Holy Spirit  
through the medium  
of the word  
makes His appeal  
to the  
inward being.



- **Ephesians 3:17**
  - **Christ dwells**
  - **in your hearts**
  - **through faith.**

# Romans 10:17

• **So then**  
**faith**  
**cometh by**  
**hearing,**  
**and hearing by the**  
**word of God.**

- **Ephesians 3:17**

**that you,**

**being rooted**

**and grounded in love,**

- **Like a flower that is tenderly planted  
and well maintained in love.**

- **That being rooted & grounded  
that they might grow.**

- **Ephesians 3:18**

- **May be able to**

- **comprehend**

**with all saints what is  
the breadth, and length,  
and depth, and height**

• **To**  
**meditate upon**  
**those things which**  
**one does not see**  
**by the eye**  
**or**  
**hear by the ear.**

• One must  
contemplate  
the great work of God  
through  
the church,  
his instrument  
of salvation.

• Ephesians 3:19

• and to know

this love

that surpasses

knowledge

- **Ephesians 3:19**

- **That you may  
be filled to the  
measure of all the  
fulness of God.**



- The purpose of the church is a changed life.

- What if,  
instead of  
memorizing and analyzing  
the teachings of Jesus,  
we just obeyed  
those teachings?

- What if we actually took the commands of Jesus seriously?

- What if we focused on  
*being*

what we have  
been called to be

- instead of just

*knowing*

what we have been called to be?

- The **church** is the **ultimate plan**.
- The **church** is the **ultimate institution**.
- The **church** is the **ultimate organization**.
- The **church** is the **ultimate source of salvation**.
- The **church** is the **ultimate answer**  
**to man's dilemma**.  
(not God's dilemma!)

- *“Think on these things”*
- Philippians 4:8

- **Doors of the church  
are open.**

•

- **Spirit & Bride Say  
“Come”.**

**(Revelation 22:17)**