

Why Be A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

Because It Is All Sufficient In Purpose

Hebrews 8:1-5

Spring 2012 Gospel Meeting

Eternal Purpose of the Church

Ephesians 3:8-12

Old Testament Tabernacle

- Hebrews 8:5; 9:8-11 (cf. Exodus 25-30, 36-40)
 - The Old Testament worship with its articles and services were intended to foreshadow the more perfect ways that God would reveal in the church.
 - Thus its purpose was to prepare Israel and the nations about for what was to come with Christ
- Hebrews 13:11-15

Purpose of the Church

- 1 Timothy 3:14-16
 - “but if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (ASV)
 - Pillar and ground
 - The support or basis of (paraphrase from Strong’s)

What is Truth?

- 1 Timothy 3:16
 - “godliness” – Following are absolute truths about Christ that the church by application of 3:15 upholds.
- What is truth?
 - John 17:17 – “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” (NASV)
 - John 16:13 – “...when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...” (NASV)
 - Ephesians 3:1-7 – Apostles (like Paul) wrote these truths down and explained them to us so that we might understand the truth as well (2 Timothy 3:16).

Purpose of the Church

- Ephesians 3:9-12
 - The ETERNAL PURPOSE
 - “...which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - Ephesians 3:10 – “the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church...”
- God designed and established the church with a distinct purpose and thus set it in order to accomplish it.
- To show forth the WISDOM of God.

Purpose of the Church

- Brings Glory to God
 - Ephesians 3:21-4:3 – Thus Paul encourages to “walk worthy of the calling.”
 - (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:22 “...or do you despise the church of God?” when not behaving worthy of the calling)
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31-33
 - 3 John 3-8
- The church, built and established on Christ and the Apostle’s teachings of Him.

Edification

- Edify – Greek *oikodome* – the act of building [Vine’s]
- Ephesians 4:12, 16
 - The church is grown through edification, building upon the foundation of truths. (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- Ephesians 4:11-16
 - Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers
 - “for the equipping of the saints...for the edifying of the body of Christ.”
 - 1 Timothy 3:16 – The church supports the truth and shows forth the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16, Ephesians 2:16-22)
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture ... for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Edification

- Apostles – a messenger, one that is sent forth (Strong’s)
- Prophets – an inspired speaker (Strong’s)
- Evangelists – a messenger of good, denotes a preacher of the Gospel (Vine’s)
- Pastors – a shepherd (Strong’s) (cf. 1 Peter 5:1-2 used to describe elders) (Acts 20:28-30)
- Teachers – an instructor...master (Strong’s)

“You have not so learned Christ”

- Ephesians 4:17-21
 - Importance of learning
 - Provides enlightenment (John 8:12)
 - Futility of mind; understanding darkened; ignorance; blindness of heart
 - Ephesians 4:11-12 – “He Himself gave...for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

Purpose of the Church

- God has declared to us with what He is glorified and how He has chosen to magnify Himself in the world.
- He has provided HIS church and equipped it with the tools necessary to accomplish what HE wants accomplished.

Tools of the Work

God has provided us with the tools he sees necessary to accomplish the work he has planned for the church.



Ephesians 4:11-12

- How are the saints equipped? (Ephesians 6:11-18)
- Are they equipped for:
 - Secular education?
 - Mathematicians, Scientists, Grammarians
 - Healing physical ailments?
 - Pharmacists, surgeons, miracle workers (1 Corinthians 12-14, Hebrews 2:3-4, 1 Timothy 5:23, 2 Corinthians 12:7)
 - Armies and physical warfare?
 - Swordsmen, sharpshooters (Ephesians 6:11-18, John 18:36)
- Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers

Purpose of the Church

- To declare His wisdom
- For the Glory of God
 - Revelation 4:11; 5:9-13
- God is glorified when we shine forth HIS wisdom, not our own.