

THE PLACE OF THE CHURCH IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A HIGH REGARD FOR THE CHURCH because -

1. Jesus said: "I will build my Church..."

2. The Church is the one institution which will outlast all others in the world. The Church will, in the end, be victorious. "... the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
- Matt. 16:18.

What is the Church?

(i) It is the spiritual "body of Christ", "the church of the firstborn whose names are written in heaven"

- not confined to time boundaries,
- not confined to geographical boundaries,

(ii) The Church in a local sense, "the Church at Corinth", I Cor. 1.2.

Note: Not all members of local churches are necessarily members of Christ's body. We must be sure that we belong to Christ, not just to a "Church."

MEDITATION:

How does a person join a "local" Church?

How does the Bible say we are to join a

Church?

How does one become a member of the Body of Christ?

2. LOVE FOR CHRIST WILL ALWAYS BE EXPRESSED IN LOVE FOR THE CHURCH.

John 13:35.

II Peter 1.7
John 15.12
I John 4.21.

Do not expect the Church to be faultless. Though there be some weakness or fault found in it we are still to love and serve it. We will never find the perfect church. If you do find one and join it, it will be imperfect because you are in it. Example, the Corinthian Church.

MEDITATION:

How can I help to build up the Church? How can I show my love for the brethren (John 13.35)?

3. IS CHURCH ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?

See Hebrews 10.25.

Four important reasons:
(Acts 2.42)

1. Teaching - "apostles' doctrine."
2. Breaking of Bread - the Lord's Supper.
3. Fellowship
4. Prayers - Praying together has a value not found in individual prayers.

It is right to give praise to God. See particularly the Psalms 146 - 150, and notice the value of simple praise to God. Should we neglect praise to God just because we do not feel like it?

Is it right to attend Church for the blessing you got out of it, or because of one's esteem for the Lord? Should one stay away because one did not get a blessing?

4. WHAT ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Readings, I Cor. 11.23-30 Luke 22.14-20

THIS IS A COMMAND - "This do." Luke 22. 19.

When? The Lord's Day (Acts 20.7) seems to be an appropriate occasion, and the weekly observance has the sanction of the Word of God.

Where? Among Christians - It is a Church (together) ordinance (I Cor. 11.20).

How? See I Cor.11.23-30. Note the Simplicity of it (Compare Luke 22. 14-20)

It should be with Self-examination
It is an act of Remembrance of the Lord.

Why? To remember.
To establish a renewal of our faith in Christ and what He has done.
Because Christ commanded it.
To witness to Christ -
"until He come".

What would be a good portion of the Bible to read or remember or meditate upon, while the emblems of the Lord Table are being passed around?

We love the place, O God,
Wherein Thine honour dwelleth;
The joy of Thine abode
All other joy excelleth.

It is the house of prayer
Wherein Thy servants meet;
And Thou, O Lord, art there
Thy chosen flock to greet.

We love the Word of Life,
The Word that tells of peace,
Of comfort in the strife
And joys that never cease.

No love to sing below
For mercies freely given;
But O we long to know
The triumph song of heaven!

Lord Jesus, give us grace
On earth to love Thee more
In heaven to see Thy face,
And with Thy saints adore.

NOTES ON PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN
LIVING IT

HOW WE SHOULD READ THE BIBLE

I WHY read the Bible?

1. Because it is the Word of God.
II Tim. 3.16
2. In order to grow. I Peter 2.2.
Because we live by it. Matt. 4.4.
3. Because we delight in it. Psalms 1.1.

Go through Psalm 119 and see the emotion with which the Psalmist regards the Word of God.

It will help you to underline throughout the Psalm the verses and phrases which show the Psalmist's regard for the Word of God.

2. WHEN and WHERE to read the Bible?
(Compare notes on prayer).

3. HOW to read the Bible. We suggest the Scripture Union method. For a very small cost, three-monthly booklets, giving a portion of the Bible to be read every day. The method is:

- (i) Pray before you read.
- (ii) Read the passage carefully.
- (iii) Meditate, and see if you can answer these questions, preferably in writing -
What have I read about God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit?
Is there an example for me to follow?
Is there a command for me to obey?
Is there a promise for me to rely on?
What is the main lesson of this passage?
- (iv) Pray over the thoughts that have come to you in meditation.

FIVE APPROACHES TO THE BIBLE

1. Hear, Luke 11.28
2. Read, I Timothy 4.13
3. Study, II Timothy 2.15
4. Memorise, Psalm 119.11.
5. Meditate, Joshua 1.8.



Satan can take away our Bible if it is only held by the thumb and one finger, but when all five are holding it, he cannot take it away.

We only hold 10% of what we hear; 20% of what we read; 40% - 60% of what we study; but 100% of what we memorise.

Then meditation is important. Meditation is to reading what the digestion is to eating - nourishing the body, assimilation of food.

Always read twice as much from the New Testament as from the Old.

Don't be afraid to mark your Bible.

Don't be worried if you do not understand something. Thank God for what you do.

THE MORAL LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN

"Either this Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book." (Notes on the flyleaf of a Bible). This is also true about prayer and communion, but is especially true of the Bible. A Christian WILL be Christ-like.

See Psalm 1.1 Romans 12.2 II Cor. 6: 14-17 Coloss. 4.5.

FURTHER STUDY:

Read John 16.33, Romans 12.2 and I John 2, 15-17, and endeavor to say what is meant by the "World" in these verses. Is it "sin", "self", "Satan"? What is it?

I may go anywhere that I can take Christ with me.

I may do anything that does not dishonour His Name,
His Day,
His Creation.

If Christ dwells and reigns in my heart
I may do WHAT I LIKE!

Holy Bible, book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine;
Mine to tell me whence I came,
Mine to teach me what I am.

Mine to chide me when I robe,
Mine to show a Saviour's love;
Mine art thou to guide my feet,
Mine to judge, condemn, acquit.

Mine to comfort in distress,
If the Holy Spirit bless;
Mine to show by living faith
Man can triumph over death.

Mine to tell of joys to come,
And the rebel sinner's doom;
Holy Bible, book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine.

NOTES ON PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN
LIVING IV

WHAT ABOUT CHRISTIAN SERVICE?

Acts 8.4 Matthew 5.14 Romans 12.1

Christian service grows out of willingness to serve Christ in the Church.

Willingness comes from oneness with Christ and a compelling desire to express to others the blessings and reality of our faith.

Are you willing to serve in the auxiliaries and committees of the Church?

WHO GUIDES US INTO REAL SERVICE FOR CHRIST?

Study Acts 6.1-7

Notice the arising of the need (1) and (2) the honest discussion among the church members (including the apostles), and (3) the manner in which members were chosen for service.

- (i) Man's part verses 3 and 5
- (ii) God's part (by the Holy Spirit working through the whole situation and in the hearts of the people).

So we notice that there is a "democratic" principle in the operation of the church and its leadership. But there is also a "theocratic" principle in that the men who guided were themselves led by God.

MEDITATION:

See also Acts 1.23-26 and Acts 13.1-3.
Does it always happen that the democratic principle in the Church works in accordance with the "theocratic" principle, the Holy Spirit?

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE "MUTUAL MINISTRY"?

I Peter 2.9

I Corinthians 12.12-27.

We are all priests of God. There is no priestly class which divides within the Church, as Christ ordained it.

The Corinthian passage shows that we are all members of the body of Christ, the Church, and have our special functions to perform.

MEDITATION:

Make a list of the various ministries which should be fulfilled in the Church - preaching, witnessing, helping the aged, the sick, those in need, sweeping, singing etc. Try to consider what you can do.

THE VALUE OF WORKING TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH

(We still need to keep in mind the two-fold definition of the "Church" as we noted earlier. What is the "Church" we are working together in?)

The value lies in -

1. The edifying of the body of Christ

2. The place of service is a blessing to ourselves personally

NOTICE THESE AGAIN -

1. We need to express a whole Christ to the world in

the ministry of preaching
the ministry of going into all the world to preach the Gospel
the ministry of healing
the ministry of comforting and strengthening
the ministry of teaching,
the ministry of helping and administration
- all in love (I Cor. 13)

The Church as the body of Christ should represent a whole Christ. The local church should be guided by these principles.

2. Each(individual) member of the body of Christ has the right of honour no matter how humble his work (see verse 15 and 24 - 26)

There are elements of character building, which only come from mixing with other people in service together, fitting in with their plans and ideas

Meditation:

If some Christians are 'hard to get on with', should we run away from the hard situation or persist and keep trying?

Am I prepared to work with someone else when I do not get my own way?

From these studies it will be seen that the church is the provision of Christ's love whereby His people are enabled to keep their faith strong, may receive the teaching of the Lord, find necessary fellowship, receive opportunities for service, and be purified in readiness for the day when the Church, the Bride of Christ, is to be caught up into the presence of the Bridegroom forever.

In the meantime, let us give the Church our love and faithful service.

NOTES ON PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING VI

STEWARSHIP OF TIME

Exodus 20. 8 - 11

Just as the Israelites were commanded with regard to money that one-tenth should be given or dedicated to the Lord, so with regard to time, one day in seven was dedicated and given to the Lord.

WHAT DAY should the Christian observe?
(Acts. 20.7)

What day were the Christians gathered together? (John 20.19 compare John 20.1)

Also verse 26 - in counting, the Jews always include the first and last days)

On what day was the Church commenced by God? (Acts 2.1 - Pentecost was reckoned by counting 50 days from the Sabbath of the Passover)

What day did the Lord arise from the grave? (John 20.1)

How much of the week do we devote to the Lord and to His service?

Billy Graham says the average Christian spends five minutes a week in personal devotion, Bible Reading and Prayer!

HOW DO I SPEND THE TIME OF ONE WEEK?

The number of hours a week which we are awake are approximately 100. Therefore the totals of those columns will be percentages.

FAITH AND WORKS James 2, 14-26.

The teaching of this passage is that whilst we are saved by FAITH ALONE (Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.) Acts 16,31, the faith that saves is the kind of faith that will express itself and act.

THIS EXPRESSION AND ACTION MAY BE REGARDED AS TWOFOLD.

1. In the initial acts of obedience—
Repentance and baptism — Acts 2,38
In confession — Romans 10,9,10.

2. In the living of the Christian life

Prayer

Bible Reading

Love for the Lord in private devotions.

Love for the brethren (Church attendance)

Service for the Church

Stewardship of ourselves
our money
our time.

"....wilt thou not know... that faith without works is dead?" i.e. it is not real faith at all.

In the beginning of the Christian life we can say that the soul that has faith is saved- because it has the INTENTION to fulfil TRUE CHRISTIAN WORKS (such as are mentioned in these notes).
ONLY TIME CAN PROVE this.

If as we have said, there is no progress in these things in the Christian life from month to month and from year to year, then we must say that it seems in our human opinion that the faith being without works is dead. Such a life certainly does not commend the power of the risen Lord, nor is it help others to follow the Lord unto Salvation. Let us therefore add to our faith virtue, and to virtue, knowledge, and to knowledge patience, self control, godliness, brotherly kindness, and to all LOVE

11 Peter 1.5-7.

Art ✓

Science

English

Maths

History

Speech & Drama

Maths

1920-29 local teacher
J. Head 27-34

W. L. Ewers 34-37

R. Ashurst 37-41

W. Webster 41-47

E. Davis 48-53

J. Henderson 54-58

A. J. Elliott 58-60

G. L. Ewers 60-68

R. Wilson 68

M. Ripper 69-