



Good News From Chardon

April 14, 2019

128 Maple Ave. 440-286-5505

Issue 15

The Glorious Church

By Ron Bartanen

Among the descriptive terms used in the New Testament with reference to that body of people that we generally refer to as the church, none is more descriptive of our close relationship to Christ than that of a bride. In Ephesians 5:22-33 Paul, while admonishing wives to be submissive to their husbands, and husbands to love their wives, illustrates their relationship to one another as a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the church. The husband is to be “the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church” (v. 23), but this headship is to be exercised in the spirit of Christ, as he further writes, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it” (v. 25). He anticipates the time when, at the return of Christ, He presents His bride to Himself as “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish” (v. 26).

The beauty and glory of the wedding-attire of the bride of Christ is not of her own doing, but of her husband’s. He has so designed the church that in spite of the deficiencies of those composing the church, it will, in that day, be seen as “a glorious church.” We would do well to consider why and how this could be so.

First, the church owes its existence to Christ. The passage in Eph. 5 declares that Christ “gave himself for it” (v. 25b). He purchased the materials that compose the church (the redeemed) with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Had Christ not shed His blood at Calvary, the church would be non-existent. Under another figure, He is the church’s builder (Matt. 16:18; Heb. 8:2). The church’s glory is a reflection of the glory of its builder.

Second, the glory of the church is seen in its head, Jesus Christ. The Lord’s church has no mere human, or council of men, as its head. As Paul wrote in Col. 1:18: “He is the head of the body, the church...that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

Third, the glory of the church is evident in the church’s foundation. “Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11).

Fourth, the church is glorious because of its glorious purpose. Paul wrote of its purpose when he said, “Unto him (Christ) be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end” (Eph. 3:21). Through Christ, the redeemed glorify God as the people reconciled to God “in one body by the cross” (Eph. 2:16). Returning to Eph. 5, Christ is both the “head of the church, and he is the Savior of the body” (v. 23). The purpose of the church is to exist in this world as that body of people called out of the world to show forth the good news of salvation in Christ.

While the church is commonly vilified in the world, its glory will one day be evident. Among the closing visions of John on the Isle of Patmos is that of “the bride, the Lamb’s (Christ’s) wife” (Rev. 21:9). She is portrayed as a city, “the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God...” (21:10b-11a). A city is identified most of all by its inhabitants. The mansions in which we shall dwell (John 14:1-4) will be glorious, but also what we suffer for Christ’s sake personally is “not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).

Those who shall partake of this glory are identified as those who are first sanctified and cleansed of sin “with the washing of water by the word” (Eph. 5:26). Have you surrendered yourself to Christ, and been added by the Lord to His glorious church? (Read Acts 2:36-47)

Ronald Bartanen preaches for Arthur Church of Christ, Arthur, IL

Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Mark

Song Leader: Dale

Opening Hymn:

403—No Tears In Heaven

Opening Prayer:

Tom

Hymn:

225—Soldiers of Christ Arise

Scripture Reading:

Larry

Ephesians 5:22-33

Hymn:

297—When My Love to Christ
Grows Weak

Lord’s Supper:

Myron & Robert

Hymn:

190—Leaning on the Everlasting
Arms

Sermon: Mark

Invitation Hymn:

624—Why Keep Jesus Waiting?

Closing Hymn:

111—Yield Not to Temptation

Closing Prayer: Ryan

PRAYER LIST

*Ron and Pat

*Dale's friend Zarna and her family.

*Larry and Ruth..

*Dale, his mother and his cousin Jayna and her family.

*Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.

*Our congregation

*Our Veterans

*Our Nation

*Our Nation

Apr. 14—Bible Study 10 am
Tom

Apr. 14—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark

Apr. 14—Business Meeting

Apr. 14—Pot Luck

Apr. 16—b. Eric

Apr. 14—b. Sara

Apr. 14—a. Brendan & Lisa Marie

Apr. 14—Bible Study 10 am
Tom

Apr. 14—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark

Apr. 19—Friday Night Sing
Minerva

Apr. 21—Bible Study 10 am
Tom

Apr. 21—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark

Apr. 26—Friday Night Sing
Struthers

Apr. 27—a. Tim & Tammi

Apr. 28—Bible Study 10 am
Mark

Answer to Puzzle: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

BLEMISH	BODIES	BONES	CHERISHES
CHRIST	CHURCH	CLEANSE	CONCERNING
EVERYTHING	FLESH	GLORIOUS	GREAT
HATED	HAVING	HIMSELF	HUSBAND
LOVED	MEMBERS	MIGHT	MYSTERY
NEVERTHELESS	NOURISHES	PARTICULAR	PRESENT
RESPECTS	SANCTIFY	SAVIOR	SHOULD
SUBJECT	SUBMIT	THEREFORE	WASHING
WITHOUT	WRINKLE		

R	W	B	T	F	O	R	T	T	G	R	H	I	S	R	E	A	S
E	I	O	A	E	O	N	H	N	A	A	M	A	N	S	H	A	L
S	T	D	E	L	S	E	I	L	S	E	H	S	I	R	U	O	N
P	H	I	R	L	R	N	U	H	E	A	V	E	H	I	S	C	C
E	O	E	G	E	R	C	A	S	U	B	M	I	T	F	G	H	H
C	U	S	F	E	I	C	H	E	R	I	S	H	E	S	L	R	U
T	T	O	C	T	B	T	A	L	L	T	E	H	R	T	O	I	R
S	R	N	R	F	N	L	S	F	H	C	V	A	O	H	R	S	C
E	O	A	E	E	L	R	E	A	A	N	E	V	I	G	I	T	H
C	P	D	S	M	O	E	T	M	N	H	R	I	V	I	O	E	D
Y	R	E	T	S	Y	M	S	R	I	C	Y	N	A	M	U	A	N
N	R	S	E	N	O	B	D	M	G	S	T	G	S	E	S	T	A
P	D	E	T	A	H	B	E	J	I	N	H	I	L	O	C	D	B
I	N	E	D	T	O	H	I	S	W	H	I	K	F	E	I	L	S
S	S	E	L	E	H	T	R	E	V	E	N	H	J	Y	O	U	U
M	E	M	B	E	R	S	F	E	A	I	G	B	S	V	N	O	H
D	T	H	E	T	W	O	S	H	R	A	U	L	E	A	L	H	B
E	C	O	M	E	O	N	E	W	F	S	L	D	E	S	W	S	H

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Hidden Message:"
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Here is a test to find out if your mission on earth is finished; if you are alive, it is not.

SUNDAY: Bible Class — 10:00 am; Worship — 11:00 am; Evening — 6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 pm

Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org

E-mail: Church of christ@roadrunner.com

Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com