

THE WAY AND WONDER OF THE HEALING CHURCH

THE WONDER OF THE CHURCH

The church is glorious and wonderful because she is the new creation of the Glorious God., she is the choicest and highest of all that He has made. She is unique.

The church is

1. **THE FATHER'S FAMILY OF SERVANT SONS. HIS HOUSEHOLD.**
2. **THE SON'S BODY, OF WHICH HE IS THE HEAD.**
3. **THE SON'S BRIDE, FOR WHOM HE GAVE HIMSELF**
4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT'S TEMPLE WHICH HE INDWELLS AND WHERE HE GLORIFIES THE FATHER AND THE SON**

THE WAY OF THE CHURCH IN PRACTICAL LIVING

She has been created to show forth the wonderful Being of the Father, Son and Spirit by

1. **MANIFESTING THE WAYS OF THE FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD, THE LOVE AND RULES OF HIS HOUSE.**
2. **MANIFESTING THE SAVING, HEALING MINISTRY OF HER HEAD. JESUS CHRIST HER LORD THROUGH HER LIFE OF GIFTS AND MINISTRIES HE HAS GIVEN.**
3. **MANIFESTING THE LORDSHIP AND LOVE OF HER HUSBAND AS SHE LIVES IN PURITY OF HER HEART'S LOVE TO HER HUSBAND CHRIST JESUS.**
4. **LIVING IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN WHICH HE EXPRESSES HIS LOVE, ADORATION AND WORSHIP IN AND THROUGH THE SOULS OF THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE THE LIVING STONES OF HIS TEMPLE.**

Our purpose is to catch something of the wonder of what the church is and learn something of the ways in which the church is to live its life in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Concentrate your reading in two of Paul's epistles as you approach these Monday evening meetings.

- a. **EPHESIANS**, there you will find the greatest revelation of the **WONDER** of the church.
- b. **1 CORINTHIANS**, there you will find the greatest details of the **WAY** of God in the church.

As revelation of who we are as God's church comes to us we shall be His agency of healing in our generation.

STUDY NUMBER ONE

Readings in the Letter to the Ephesians.

THE CHURCH IS WONDERFUL.

- a. It is a New Creation of God. (Eph 2:10 & 4:24)
- b. It is the combined work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 2:21&22; 3:14-17) where the Three Persons are mentioned as working together.
- c. It is created through the Self-Giving of God in Christ. It could not come into being without the ‘pouring-out’ of the Life of God that climaxed at Calvary; this continues unabated. (Eph 5:25)
- d. There is no other way that the church can live and continue save she participates in that continued ‘out-poured’ and ‘self-giving’ life that comes from the Father to her, through the Son and by the Spirit. Eph 3:2 is one reference to this KEY to the life of the church. Paul says “grace was given to me FOR you.” Not “you for you!”
- e. In the natural creation every member, every part is interdependent, firstly upon the Creator and the out-giving of the life He imparts to them and secondly upon each part contributing of itself to the good of the other. Example, dependency that we have for our food upon the work of bees and other insects. They have God’s creation life given them “for us.”
- f. The Church, the New Creation is likewise totally dependent and inter-dependent. She has no life “of her own” apart from Christ.

THE CHURCH, A NEW REVELATION

- a. It was unknown before Pentecost. (Eph 3:4)
- b. It is therefore called “a mystery.” (Eph 3:4&9)
- c. The twelve apostles of the Lamb, especially Paul were given the revelation of the mystery, as were the early church prophets. (Eph 3:5 and Revelation 21:14). The twelve apostles of the Lamb are unique in this respect. No apostles since are to be compared with them.
- d. Paul has a special place in the scheme of God as He reveals the church. (Eph 3:4)

THE OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE OF GOD WERE NOT THE CHURCH

- a. He chose one nation of the seed of Abraham. His choice was sovereign because of His love. The nation was insignificant. (Deuteronomy 7:6)
- b. God introduced Himself as the God of glory, this implied that they could be His glorious people; the potential was present. (Acts 7:2)
- c. He continued to ‘discover’ Himself to His people, they had a unique relationship to Him and it brought with it great privileges. (Romans 9:4&5)
- d. He called them “His son” and brought them out of bondage in Egypt through Moses. They were a redeemed and saved people. By doing this He publicly ‘adopted’ His son Israel. (Rom 9:4 and Exodus 4:23)

- e. He demonstrated His power when He delivered them and showed that other gods were simply made of wood and stone and were powerless.
- f. Two main words are used to describe these Old Testament people of God.

QAHAL

Deuteronomy 23 :1- 7. It is translated “ the assembly of the Lord” This name demonstrates God’s unique relationship to this particular people. They were His, He had delivered them, adopted them, privileged them.

AM SEGULLAH

Deuteronomy 7:6 compared with 1 Peter 2:9 show that they are His “peculiar people.” This can be translated as “ a people with whom He surrounds Himself.” This name indicates His joy in having a people as He dwelt in His tabernacle in the wilderness and they pitched their tents all around Him. It is the intimacy of love; of companionship and having a glorious God they were to be a glorious people. **The contrast between their God, themselves, their lives and their worship as compared with the nations round about should not be understated.**

FAILURE!

God’s Old Testament people failed to be His witness on the earth, His son failed but through the remnant among the nation, those who walked with Him He made precious promises that spoke of something better to come that would affect the nations. **There is no clear revelation of the Body of Christ - the church because Christ from Whom she comes and has her existence had not yet come.** But He is promised, the true Son would come, who would be the faithful witness and servant of God and accomplish His work. For this see especially various chapters in Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel. The clear death of the Servant is alluded to in Isaiah 53 and that it would be the “travail of His soul” through which offspring made righteous would come.

CHRIST HAS COME, NOW THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH IS MADE KNOWN.

- a. She has been hidden in Him. (like Eve was hidden in Adam) Gen 2.
- b. She is the New Congregation of God, the real Qahal.
- c. She is the Am Segullah, the beloved people of God with whom He surrounds Himself. 1 Peter 2 v9

ONE BODY

- a. Made up not only from the nation of the Jews but of the nations of the Gentiles too. There is no racial pride, no racial elements. One body in Christ. Eph 2v 14-16 and Eph 3v6
- b. Gentiles are now “Fellow-heirs” Eph3v6
- c. Of the same body. Eph 3v6

- d. Partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ by the gospel. Eph 3v6
- e. Inheritance suggests sonship from the Father. Eph 3v14.
- f. Sonship is both being regenerated from the Father and also adoption by Him.
- g. The sons inherit what? The things that are the riches of their Father!
- h. Rich in mercy. Eph 2v4. Unsearchable riches of Christ. Eph 3v 9.
- i. Sons inherit what they do not pay for, all is gift, it is grace.

THE CHURCH THE FATHERS FAMILY

- a. They must learn to live in their proper habitat; they are the Father's house.
- b. They are to be rich in mercy, a healing people. Living in the promised life that has come through the Lord Jesus. Eph 3, especially verses 7 through 21.
- c. We have a place in the Father's household. Eph 3v2 and v9. (translated as "stewardship" and "plan". They are words of the house, to with its economy.
- d. There are rules in the house. Galatians 6v10 &16. We must learn them. It is a house of healing for the Father is the fountain of all healing.
- e. Every family takes its name from the Father, when He created He created the 'cat family', they have rules that govern their being, or the 'dog family' likewise, or the 'angelic family' have their rules and life too. The church is uniquely 'the Father's household'. It is a grace family, a love family and grace and love compels happy service that crosses barriers and shares in the ministry of healing.