Ephesians – “God’s Plan For Every Believer”

Chapter 2:19 – 3:6

Sin causes separation

This has its roots back in the Garden of Eden

It divides families, marriages, neighbors, nations

However, the gospel of Christ brings togetherness

Total inclusion characterizes the Christian faith

Every truly born-again believer of any tribe, people group or nation is a member within the household of God

There’s no exceptions to this anywhere

One house can only have one foundation on which it is built

The foundation of Christianity is built beginning with one primary cornerstone – Jesus Christ

The next part of the foundation includes the apostles and prophets

They were the instruments through whom God’s most essential truths were communicated, both verbally and in written form

Notice the significant number of contributors

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It was not just revelation given to one man, such as is true with the false religions of Jehovah Witnesses, Mormonism and Islam

We have many contributors to the Holy Scriptures

Those rising to prominence from the Old Testament would include Moses, David, Isaiah, and Jeremiah

Within the New Testament, we have Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter and Paul

Collectively, everything they wrote is in total agreement

There’s no divergence in any significant doctrine

What they wrote within the pages of Scripture is precisely what Christ wanted them to write

Upon this foundation, the universal church of Christ continues to be constructed

Every single Christian is an integral part of it

1 Peter 2:4-5: “You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but He was chosen by God for great honor. And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.” (NLT)

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Once you’re grafted into the structure, you will never cease to be a part of this spiritual building

Every piece is a perfect fit, joined tightly together like an intricate puzzle

Right up to this present time the church of Christ continues to grow into a magnificent holy temple, housing the very presence of Almighty God through His Holy Spirit

We can belong to many different institutions while on earth

I’m sure many of us have had personal membership within some kind of club or group through the years

However, there isn’t anything better than to be an eternal member with God’s universal church

Now, we’ve got a specific kind of membership within local churches

Yet what these Scripture verses point to is the fact, no matter where we may go in the world, wherever we encounter other believers or enter a genuine bible-believing, gospel preaching church, we are one in relationship through Christ

There is an immediate identification and bond since we’re all members within one divine household

We all have the same Holy Spirit residing within us

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There’s nothing like this anywhere else on this planet

What do you think of your inclusion in Christ’s universal church?

How precious is this to you?

How amazed are you that you are actually a part of it?

Have we taken this most glorious, amazing truth for granted rather than marveling in it?

Furthermore, what do you think of your local church?

What priority and value does it hold in your life?

How committed are you to utilizing your spiritual gifts within it?

How eager are you to gather together in corporate worship, coming to praise and honour God?

How willingly do you take advantage of the opportunities it provides for learning God’s Word?

The church may have flaws in function but never in regard to each person who makes up its ranks

I’m not saying everyone who attends has attained perfection

Rather, everyone who comes here as a truly sincere believer in Christ is absolutely meant to be a vital part of this church, according to God’s eternal plan

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How can I claim this to be true?

It’s God’s intention for each person who is a believer in Christ to have involvement in a church within their community

We need to renew our love for Christ’s church

Beginning in chapter three, Paul next writes on a much more personal note

He is reminding these Ephesian believers the reason why they were able to hear and believe the gospel was due to the fact he was sent to them as God’s emissary

This proved to be at great personal cost for Paul

He was a prisoner in Rome when he was writing this letter

This was due to him faithfully preaching the gospel wherever God lead him, including the ancient city of Ephesus

He refers to this as having been given a stewardship by God

In other words, he was sanctioned with the divine responsibility of sharing the good news regarding salvation in Christ

Read text note, “The MacArthur Study Bible,” p. 1806)

The mystery involves bringing Jew and Gentile together into one eternal family

Let’s rejoice together now and give God thanks