

## Chapter 3A: An Introduction to Word Pictures of Christ's Church

Bible Study Prepared for Grace Christian Fellowship of Dayton, Inc. on Sundays, December 1, 2019 by Greg Weis

### I. Emphasis 3: Rediscovering and Restoring the Biblical and Historical Church.

A. The Reformation: "The Triumph of Pauline & Augustinian Doctrines of Soteriology Over Ecclesiology."

B. Evangelicalism Today: "No Ecclesiology." Radical Individualism.

**(Matthew 16:18)** " ... I will build My church; ..." (Juxtaposed to the Church of Moses in Jewish Scriptures.)

**(Exodus 19:1-6)** <sup>3</sup>"... you shall say to the house of Jacob ... the sons of Israel: <sup>4</sup>'... I ... brought you to Myself.'

<sup>5</sup>Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice & keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; <sup>6</sup>and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. ..."

**(1 Peter 2:4-5, 9)** And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup>you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ... But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (Quoted from Exodus 19:5-6 Above.)

### II. Some Biblical Word Pictures of the Church.

A. **Salt of the Earth:** (Mk 9:49-50; Lk 14:34; Col. 4:6; James 3:12; Lev. 2:13; Num. 18:19; 2 Kings 2:20-21; 2 Chron. 13:5; Ezra 7:22; Job 6:6; Ezekiel 16:4; 47:11)

**(Matthew 5:13)** "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

B. **Lampstand:** Consider Pervasive Biblical Theme of Light vs. Darkness (Especially in Psalms, John, etc.)

**(Zechariah 4:1-2)** Then the angel ... <sup>2</sup>He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; (Discuss Apocalyptic Books: Daniel, Zechariah, Revelation & More)

**(Matthew 5:14-16)** <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup>nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.<sup>16</sup> Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (1 Peter 2:11-16; 3:13-17)

**(Rev. 1:1,4,10, 12-14, 20)** <sup>1:1</sup>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; ... <sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia: ...<sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, ... <sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; <sup>13</sup>and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. <sup>14</sup>His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ... <sup>20</sup>As for the mystery of the ... seven golden lampstands: ... seven lampstands are the seven churches.

**Note:** "Middle" in NASB vs. 13 is Greek μέσος (mésos): Better Translated as "midst" in ESV, NKJV, KJV, NET)

C. **City:** (Read Matt. 5:14 -16 above. Mixed Metaphors.) (Read Ps. 48 & 87) (Rev. 3:12, 21:2, 10, 23; 22:19) **(Hebrews 12:22-25)** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, <sup>23</sup>to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel. (Mixed Metaphors.)

D. **Nation:** **(Exodus 19:1-6 & 1 Peter 2:5, 9) (Gen. 18:18; 22:18) (Romans 10:19 quoting Isaiah ?)** **(Genesis 12:1-3)** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup>And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup>And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." (Mixed Metaphors.)

**(Genesis 17:4-6, 16, 20)** <sup>4</sup>“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. (5 Mixed Metaphors.) (Ps. 33:12; 83:4; **106:5; 147:2, 19-20**)

**E. A People for God: God’s Special Treasure: (Exodus 19:1-6 & 1 Peter 2:5, 9) (Ps. 83:3)** (Matt. 13:44) **(Deut. 26:17-19)** <sup>17</sup>You have today declared the LORD to be your God, and that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His ordinances, and listen to His voice. <sup>18</sup>The LORD has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments; <sup>19</sup>and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the LORD your God, as He has spoken.” (Cf. Vs. 17 w/ 19) **Note:** Treasure: Great Example of Multiple use of 1 Word Picture for Various Things. Ex. Water, Fire, Lion, Etc.)

**F. God’s Household:** (See Exodus 19:1-6 & 1 Peter 2:5, 9 & Hebrews 3:1-7 Above.)

**G. God’s Family:** (See When the Church Was a Family: Recapturing Jesus’ Vision for Authentic Christian Community by Joseph H. Hellerman. Argues that Family is the most prevalent Word Picture of Jesus & Paul.)

**H. God’s Vineyard, Vine, Field: (John 15:1-8)**

**(1 Cor. 3:8-10)** <sup>8</sup>Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. <sup>10</sup>According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. (Mixed Metaphors. Quality Fruit & Building Materials.)

**I. God’s Bride, Bride of Christ:** (See Hosea) **(1 Timothy 3:2-5, 8, 12)** (Colossians 3:18-21)

**(Ephesians 5:21-33)** <sup>21</sup>and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. ... <sup>29</sup>... just as Christ also does the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of His body. <sup>31</sup>FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. <sup>32</sup>This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (Mixed Metaphors.) **(2 Corinthians 11:2-3)**

**(Hosea 1:2; 2:2, 4-5, 12-13; 4:6, 10-15; 5:4)** <sup>1:2</sup>When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the LORD.” ... <sup>2:2</sup>“Contend with your mother, contend, For she is not my wife, and I am not her husband; And let her put away her harlotry from her face And her adultery from between her breasts, ... <sup>4</sup>“Also, I will have no compassion on her children, Because they are children of harlotry. <sup>5</sup>“For their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers, ... “I will destroy her vines and fig trees, ... <sup>13</sup>“I will punish her for the days of the Baals, ... And follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me,” declares the LORD. ... <sup>4:6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. <sup>5:4</sup> Their deeds will not allow them To return to their God. For a spirit of harlotry is within them, And they do not know the LORD.

**J. Army of God: (Ephesians 6:10-20) (Joshua 5:13-15)** (Search Army of the Lord & Army of God)

**K. Fellowship or Community of .... The Lord, King, Redeemed. (Acts 2:42) (1 John 1:1-10)** (Phil. 2:1ff)

**L. Church: (See Matt. 16:17-19)** (See Eph. 5: 21-33 Above) (Mixed Metaphors.)

**M. Body of Christ: (See Eph. 3:6; 4:12; 5: 21-33 Above) (1 Corinthians 12) (Rom. 12:5) (Col. 1:24)**

**N. Temple, Sanctuary or Tabernacle:** (See Ephesians 2:19-22) (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19) (2 Cor. 6:15-17)

**O. Mountain:** (See Matthew 5:14 above.) (Mount Zion – Hebrews 12:18-29)

**P. God’s Tree: Fig, Olive, Oak & More (Romans 11:16-24)**

**III. Fifteen Biblical Emphasis for Rediscovery (Rethink, Reexamine, Reconsider) & Restoration (Reconstruct)**  
(See Previous Outlines)

