

Chapter 3B: Thirteen Word Pictures of Christ's Church from the Church at Ephesus

Bible Study Prepared for Grace Christian Fellowship of Dayton, Inc. on Sundays, December 8, 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) ³"... you shall say to the house of Jacob ... the sons of Israel: ⁴"... I ... brought you to Myself."

⁵Now 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; ⁶and 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, ⁵you 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.)

C. Last Sunday: Introduction to "Word Pictures" of Christ's Church. (aka Images, Metaphors, Illustrations)

II. Thirteen (13) Word Pictures of the Church from Ephesus. (Rev. 2:1-7; Epistle to Ephesians; Acts 18-20)

1. **People for God - God's Special Treasure, Called as Saints** (Cf. Deut. 7:6-8 w/ Ephesians 1:3-15ff)

2. **Church: Called Out, Chosen, Assembly** (Cf. Matt. 16:18, etc. w/ Eph. 1:22; 3:10; 3:21) (6Xs in 5:21-32)

3. **Saints (Holy Ones): 9 Xs as Noun** (Describing Who We Are) & 6 Xs as Adjective (Qualifier in 2 Ways) (Saints - Ephesians 1:3; 15, 18; 2:19; 3:8, 18; 4:12; 5:3; 6:18) (Holy - Ephesians 1:4, 13; 2:21; 3:5; 4:30; 5:27)

4. **Body of Christ** (Cf. 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Roms. 12:4-5; Col. 1:18 w/ Eph. 1:23; 2:16; 3:6; 4:4, 12-16; 5:30)

5. **Common Wealth of Israel: Covenants of Promise** (Cf. Ex 19:5-6, Etc. w/ Eph. 2:11-18ff; 3:4-6; 5:3-6)

(Ephesians 2:18-19) ... ¹⁸for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

6. **Citizens of God's Kingdom** (Cf. Ex. 19:5-6; Lk. 15:15; 19:14; Phil. 3:20; Hebs. 8:11; w/ Eph. 2:19)

(See GCF Book of the Year 2015: Church Membership by Jonathon Leeman / Discuss "9 Marks")

7. **God's Building, Temple, Tabernacle, Dwelling** (Cf. Jn. 1:14; Ex. 25:8; 29:45-46; Lev. 26:11;

1 Kings 6:13; Ps. 9:11; 68:18; 78:60; Is. 58:12; Ezek. 43:7-9; 2 Co. 6:16)

(Acts 7:48-50) ⁴⁸However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says:

⁴⁹'HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET; WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?' says the Lord, 'OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE? ⁵⁰'WAS IT NOT MY HAND WHICH MADE ALL THESE THINGS?' **(1 Kings 8:27; Is. 66:1-2)**

(Ephesians 2:20-22) ... ¹²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

(Revelation 21:3) ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

8. **God's Household** (Cf. Heb. 3:1-7 w/ Eph. 2:19 οἰκεῖτος; 3:9 οἰκονομία) (Cf. Eph. 3:9 Greek KJV)

(John 14:2) In My Father's house (οἰκία / oikia) are many dwelling places (μονή / moné); if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. (Cf. Luke 15:11-32) (Cf. Gal. 6:10) (1 Tim. 3:4,5,12,15)

9. **Bride of Christ** (Cf. Hosea; 1 Tim. 3:2-5, 8, 12; Col. 3:18-21 w/ Eph. 4:14-15, 5:3-6, 5:21-33; 6:1-3)

(Ephesians 5:21-33) ²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. ... ²⁹... just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰because we are members of His body. ³¹FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND

SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. (Mixed Metaphors. Main Metaphor Christ & His Bride)

(2 Corinthians 11:2-3) For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.³ But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (ESV)

10. **Family of God** (Cf. Patriarchs, Tribes w/ Eph. 4:14-15, 5:3-6, 5:21-33; 6:1-3)

(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.)

(Matthew 12:46-50) ... ⁴⁹ And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

(John 19:26-27) ²⁶ When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*. (**Household is not in the Greek. Could as easily be family.**)

11. **Lampstand** (Cf. Matt. 5:14-15; Rev. 1: 12-14, 16, 20; 21:22-25a; 22:5 w/ Eph. 5:7-17)

(Matthew 5:14-15) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.

(Revelation 1:12-14; 20) ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ ... and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁶ ... and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. ²⁰ As for the mystery ... the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

(Cf. Revelation 2:1-7; 21:22-24; 22:5)

12. **Army (Host) of God** (Cf. Ex. 6:26; 1 Sam. 17:46; 28:19; Rom. 16:20; 2 Cor. 2:14 w/ Eph. 6:10-20)

(Exodus 12:41, 51) ⁴¹ And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. ⁵¹ ... the LORD brought the sons of Israel out ... of Egypt by their hosts.

(Joshua 5:13-15) ¹³ ... Joshua ... lifted up his eyes ..., and ... a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴ He said, "No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?" ¹⁵ The captain of the LORD's host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

(Read 2 Chronicles 20:20-22 - Explain Context) (Cf. Acts 16:25-26ff)

(Colossians 2:15) When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. (**Explain: A Triumph**)

(Ephesians 3:8-10; 4:8) ⁸ To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. ^{4:8} Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." (Cf. Ps. 68:18)

13. **Flock of God / God's Flock** (Acts 20:27-28)

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