

There Is Only One Church - Ulverston - 27th June 2009

Jesus speaks about the traditions of men invalidating the word of God - *'The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.*

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?" He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.".... Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." Mark 7:1-8 & 13.

There is only one church, one faith and one baptism. If Jesus is coming back for one church and these will be dressed in fine linen (which is the righteous acts of the saints) God has to do something quite dramatic - something has to change. As Jesus begins to build His Church we need to make sure we are in the right one.

Beware of those who preach that in godliness there is financial gain. The joy of obedience is in fact the most wonderful thing. God wants His Church back and Jesus is the One who is going to build it. But men have an inherent need to build. Will the Church lay down everything to let Him build it?

In Gen.11:4 we see that men wanted to build - to build a city; a city with a tower reaching up to the heavens and to make a name for themselves. We know that it was because of this that God had to bring confusion. What men build is corruptible and it is inevitable that it will fall. If something is going to be built that is incorruptible man cannot build it. What man builds is corruptible but what God builds will last forever.

In 2 Sam.7 we see that David plans to build a house for God but God said, "I will raise up your seed after you who will come forth from you and I will establish His Kingdom and He will build a house for My Name and I will establish the throne of His house forever." (v. 12&13). This can only refer to Jesus, no one else, so we need to understand that unless the Lord build the house they labour in vain who build it. (Ps.127:1) Jesus said, "...upon this rock I will build My Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." (Matt.16:18) This is the end-time Church who will see us demonstrate a love for one another that will be a miracle.

Jesus said, "The gates of hell won't prevail..." but I want to warn you, soon these gates will be opened. You will see everything of man will be collapsing. Everything that can be shaken is going to be shaken. So let His Church surrender all their traditions and lay them down. He wants to assemble us into *His* Church. God is preparing His Church even now. God is humbling us and preparing us for a work that lies ahead. And we need to understand this the glory of the latter house will be greater than the glory of the former. So let us long for the Word of God to have full effect. Something has to change - let it change.

In Acts 7 we see Stephen explaining that the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands. What arrogance of men that they think they can build. It is time to let *Him* build. How many are willing to lay down all and let Him build?

In Hebrews 3 we see that Moses was the builder of his house but in verse 6 we see “Christ is Head over His house, whose house we are” IF “we hold fast our confidence... until the end.”

In 1Pet.2 we see we are being built into a spiritual house and Jesus is the Cornerstone.

This is what is coming. There will be those who will persecute a man for giving this message but if you're a living stone you will be part of what Jesus is building. So ask yourself the question, “What are you building and who are you building it for?”

In Eph.2:18-22 we see that the Church will be built together into “a habitation of God in the Spirit.” If you've built 'your' order of service and you want to tell God what to do and when to do it you have missed it.

In 2 Chronicles 29 we read that the uncleanness had to be removed from the holy place as they consecrated the House of the Lord. So even now God wants to take out all the rubbish that may be in His house and get rid of it. This is why we have to be changed. This is why we have to repent and pursue holiness and righteousness but there will be a cost and part of the cost is that you will be rejected of men.

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The above is taken from notes and is a partial transcript of the message.

D.A. - 27th June 2009