

LET THE CHURCH ROLL ON

Scripture: John

John 17:11, 15-23

Introduction

Even Jesus himself realized that his own earthly ministry was not essential to the completion of God's master plan for this world. There was another member of the Divine Trinity who was better qualified to complete the work that He had begun.

He had said, "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

John 15:7

It was with this in mind, that he committed the church into the hands of the Father that He might deliver it to the Holy Spirit. Jesus desired what was best for the church: He wanted the church to roll on. He wanted it to be healthy.

THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST (1 Cor. 12)

I. Keep them from evil--Sanctify them

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:27

A. By consecration--washing

1. Naaman the leper

a. Leprosy a type of sin

b. Told to wash seven times

1. Seven the number of perfection

2. God wanted Naaman to have perfect health

c. The washing brought healing

2. Christ consecrated the church with his own blood

NOT KEPT FROM EVIL BY BEING PLACED IN A STERILE ATMOSPHERE BUT BY IMMUNIZATION

- I. Keep them from evil--Sanctify them
 - B. By purification--refining
 1. Example: Refining of gold
 - a. Great heat applied
 - b. Ore made molten
 - c. Some impurities burned
 - d. Dross floats, and is removed
 2. Refining by Holy Ghost revival
 - a. Fire of revival to burn
 - b. Church melted in God's presence
 - c. Impurities consumed

For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire.

Deuteronomy 4:24

And every man that hath this hope
hope in him purifieth himself, even
as he is pure.

1 John 3:3

- d. Dross removed--excesses

- II. That they may all be one--Unify them

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Psalm 133:1

- A. The church of Acts--one accord used 7 times
 1. One accord--used 11 times in Acts, 7
7 times in reference to the church,
and 5 times in first 5 chapters
 2. Unified church
 - a. Received the Holy Spirit 2:1-4
 - b. Was added to daily 2:47
 - c. Wrought signs and wonders 5:12
 - d. Wrought Peters deliverance 12:5-7
- B. A properly unified church will have revival
 1. In desire for things of God
 2. In consecration to receive God's blessings
 3. In dedication to properly use them

UNIFIED TO FUNCTION PROPERLY

THE UNITY OF THE BODY
1 COR 12

III. And the glory...have I given them—Glorify them
That he might present it to himself a
glorious church.....

Ephesians 5:27

- A. Church glorified by the Holy Spirit
 - 1. Glorify—to make extraordinary, resplendent
 - 2. Set apart from other religions
 - 3. Holy Spirit's presence glorifies the church
 - a. By supernatural manifestations
 - 1. Tongues and interpretations
 - 2. Prophetic utterances
 - b. By miracles and healings
 - c. By His seal of approval on worship
- B. Final glorification of the Church
 - 1. Rapture
 - 2. Married to Christ
 - 3. Made to rule and reign with Christ
 - 4. Eternity with God