

Preserving the Church IV

Jude 3

- A. Matt. 16:18 – The Lord said, “I will build my church.”
- B. To preserve the church requires that its members are aware of conditions that oppose the purity and the preservation of the church: we want to consider a number of those conditions.

I. Lukewarmness:

- A. Rev. 3:14-16 - Because thou art lukewarm: a liquid that should be cold/hot is neither, and thus is nauseous and tends to cause the partaker to "vomit," (Vine's).
- B. Amos 6:1, 3, 4-6 - Result of not heeding the warnings of the prophets.
 - 1. Vs. 1 - "Them that are at 'ease'"
 - 2. Vs. 3 - "Put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near," i.e., a lack of preparation and follow-through.
 - 3. How was it manifested?
 - a. Vs. 4-6 - Gorged themselves in luxury.
 - b. Haggai 1:1-10 - The only remedy to restore their fruitful seasons is through zealous work.
 - c. Titus 2:11-14 - "a people for his own possession, zealous of good works."

“But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons...” (1 Tim. 4:1-2).

- C. What produced a lukewarmness among the church in Laodicea?
 - 1. Church, or assembly is - "a calling out, that is... a meeting a religious congregation...or Christian community of members" (Strong's).
 - 2. Who is responsible for a decline in any home, nation, or church? The people! cf. 3:4
 - 3. Rev. 3:17 - Reliance on riches.
 - 4. Matt. 6:24; 1 Kgs. 18:21 - "Serve mammon" (asv), "wealth" (nasv), thus personify as an object of worship.
- D. 1 Cor. 15:58; Phil 3:12-14 – Press on in an activity to its completion.

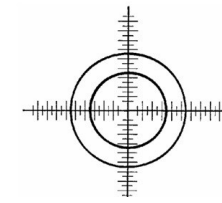
II. Thoughts to Ponder:

- A. 1 Tim. 3:15 - The church is the pillar and ground of the truth.
- B. 1 Cor. 3:16 - The church is where the Spirit of God dwells.
- C. Eph. 4:30-32 - Do we grieve the Holy Spirit because we do not have a proper attitude toward the church?

Just “ONE”

When the apostle Paul encouraged the brethren in Ephesus, he said, “*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all*” (Eph. 4:4-6), he used the numerical number ONE seven times. All of which are common to all Christians. Only “one baptism” is common to all Christians, i.e., Water, of which Peter commanded Cornelius to submit (Acts 10:48). For what purpose? The remission of sins: Acts 2:38; 22:16. ret

In the Crosshairs



Was John a Baptist?

The following is an excerpt from The Bible Banner, August 1942. The article reflects views concerning the position of T.G. Duckworth in a 1942 April 10th issue of **The Orthodox Baptist Searchlight**.

“Then Jesus took from that forerunner's baptism (John a Baptist preacher) and organized his (Jesus') church, not churches. This was the beginning of church organization. Jesus organized his church! Then the devil started to work and began to cause the falling away. Strife, deception, rule or ruin, and he saw that he could not rule God's church, so he fell out and laid the cornerstone for his churches, which run into the hundreds of the so-called churches. * * * * John was the forerunner of Jesus, sent by God as the first and permanent trail blazer, that through his work Jesus could come and select material with which he could build that old fashioned Landmark Baptist Church.”

The scriptures nowhere refer to John as “a Baptist preacher” or “a Baptist.” The scriptures refer to John as “the Baptist,” i.e., John was a baptizer, and refers to his vocation, not a religious affiliation.

Regarding the statement “that through his work (John’s, emph. mine), Jesus could come and select material with which he could build that old fashioned Landmark Baptist Church.” The scriptures are likewise silent regarding the building of any “Baptist Church.” Contrarywise, when Paul found certain disciples that had been baptized into John’s baptism, after his instructions, “they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 19:1-5).

Jesus said, “I will build *my* church” (Matt. 16:18). ret

Thoughts to Ponder

When the apostle John wrote to brethren in the first century, he encouraged them, saying, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 Jn. 4:1).

In like manner, Jude said, “Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in privily, *even* they who were of old written of beforehand unto this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (Jude 1:3-4).

And again, the apostle Paul spoke of, “false apostles, deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light. It is no great thing therefore if his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works” (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

John the Baptist himself, “when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said unto them, Ye offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Matt. 3:7).

The above references emphasize a warning, to those who receive the word with gladness, that there will be those who “serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent” (Rom. 16:18). ret

Preserving the Church IV

W	O	R	P	R	E	S	S	O	N	T	E	Z	I
U	M	A	F	J	O	L	A	O	D	I	C	E	A
S	R	W	L	V	O	M	I	T	Y	E	G	A	H
T	A	E	O	P	W	S	V	N	R	S	R	L	T
E	L	K	C	R	S	O	O	T	V	A	O	O	U
H	L	U	K	E	W	A	R	M	N	E	U	U	R
P	I	L	S	S	R	K	Y	K	L	F	N	S	T
O	P	S	O	C	H	U	R	C	H	V	D	T	U
R	O	Y	P	O	S	S	E	S	S	I	N	O	V
P	U	T	A	W	A	Y	P	T	I	R	I	P	S

PROPHETS	LUKEWARM	EASE
VOMIT	ZEALOUS	WORK
POSSESSION	CHURCH	PILLAR
GROUND	TRUTH	SPIRIT
LAODICEA	PUT AWAY	IVORY
FLOCK	INVENT	PRESS ON

Godliness: Nothing Easy About it

There is no such thing as godliness made easy. Prophets, Kings, Apostles and brethren were not generally given the option to find avenues to incorporate into their lifetime spiritual study and time of reflection more easily. They were, however, told to “redeem the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16). What was it the apostle Paul said? “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:12-13).

There is no greater pursuit, thus, “seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue; whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust” (2 Pet. 1:3-4). ret

Preserving the Church IV

With Him is

Plenteous Redemption

Psalms 130:7

Web www.jonescoc.org (Take Five Audios) Phone 405.916.4723	Church of Christ meeting at 12812 E Britton, Rd P. O. Box 596 Jones, OK 73049	ASSEMBLIES SUNDAY: Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Assembly: 10:30 a.m. Assembly: 3:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible Study: 3:00 p.m.
Volume II	Joneschurchofchrist@gmail.com	0007

Weekly Reading:

Galatians 1:1-10; 3:1; 51-12

Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22; 2 Peter 3:1-18



Luke 16:19-31

Your Choice
Choose Wisely



Revelation 4:4

If it is So...

If it is impossible for a child of God to fall away, why did the Holy Spirit deem it essential to emphasize the following warnings? The...

The apostle Paul, when speaking to the elders of Ephesus, said, “I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:28-30).

The apostle Peter, “For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first” (2 Pet. 2:20). ret