

THANK GOD FOR HIS CHURCH

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The church of which we speak is the church:
 - a. Which exists and was made possible by God giving his Son to die for the sins of man.
 - b. Belonging to Christ, purchased by his blood, identified as his and wearing his name, Rom.16:16.
2. For many reasons his church is special and unique – a spiritual institution worthy of our thanksgiving.
3. The following are some of the reasons we should thank God for the church.

II. DISCUSSION

- A. We should thank God for the church because, according to his eternal purpose, which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord, he planned it and brought it into existence, Eph.3:8-11.**
- B. Because it was built by God's only begotten Son himself, not some less than perfect being, Mt.16:13-19.**
- C. Because it is of divine origin and can never be destroyed, Dan.2:44; Heb.12:28; Lk.1:31-33.**
 1. The kingdom received is an immovable one.
 2. Judaism had been removed.
 3. Earthly kingdoms had been removed.
 4. All that men have built, including churches, will be removed. Cf. Mt.15:13,14.
 5. Only Christ's kingdom shall stand. It will be here when he returns. As per 1Cor.15:24-28.
 6. Grace in gratitude should abound in our regal reception of this immovable kingdom, the precious body and bride of Christ.
- D. Because his love was so great that he gave his Son to be crucified whose blood was the only means by which the church could be purchased, Jno.3:14-16; Ac.20:28; 1Pet.1:18-20; 1Cor.6:19,20; Rom.3:19-26; Gal.1:4; Eph.1:7; Rev.1:5.**

- E. Because it is the one to which the Lord himself adds the saved, all the saved, and is therefore the one composed of the saved, God's spiritual family, Mk.16:15,16; Rom.1:16,17; Ac.2:21,36-41,47; Eph.5:23-27; 1Tim.3:14,15.**
- F. Because it has Jesus, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, as its head, Col.1;18; 1Tim.6:15; Eph.5:23; Rev.17:14; 19:16.**
- G. Because it's the church that not only is built by Jesus but has Jesus as its only foundation and chief corner stone laid by the apostles and prophets, 1Cor.3:9-11; Eph.2:19-22; Ac.4:10-12.**
- H. Because that is where God makes both Jew and Gentile one in Christ reconciling them unto himself in one body by the cross of Christ, Eph.2:11-16.**
- I. Because by and through it the manifold wisdom and the glory of God is made known or shown, Eph.3:10,21; Cf. Rom.16:27.**
- J. Because in Christ is where God blesses us with all spiritual blessings, Eph.1:3. And to be in Christ is to be in his church; for by faith we are baptized into Christ and into his church at the same time and by the same action, Rom.6:3-6; 1Cor.12:12,13; Eph.1:22,23.**
- K. Because it is the kingdom of God the Father and of his dear Son (Jno.3:3,5; Ac.8:12; Col.1:13; 2Pet.1:11) which at the 2nd Coming he shall deliver up to God, 1Cor.15:21-26.**

III. CONCLUSION

1. Thank the Lord for his church and for the hope we have in Christ who is its builder, purchaser, Savior, head, High Priest, and King.
2. Let us be ready at all times to do as Peter urged in 1Pet.3:15.