

THE VALUE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Text: Acts 20:28

INTRO: Eph. 5:25 speaks of what we call “the universal church” as having been purchased with the Lord’s blood. But our text says the same is true of the local church. Let us note some other passages that indicate the value that Christ places on the local church arrangement.

I. THE LOCAL CHURCH IS A LAMPSTAND TO GIVE LIGHT TO THE COMMUNITY & THE WORLD, Rev. 1:20.

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia & Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone out... (1 Thess. 1:8).

II. THE LOCAL CHURCH IS THE PILLAR & GROUND OF THE TRUTH, 1 Tim. 3:15.

NOTE: If it is important to support the truth, then the local church is doing an important & valuable work.

III. THE LOCAL CHURCH IS GOD’S ARRANGEMENT FOR CHRISTIANS TO WORK COLLECTIVELY IN EVANGELISM AND EDIFICATION. 2 Cor. 11:8; 1 Thes 1:8.

READ I COR. 14:5-6, 15-17, 23-26

IV. THE LOCAL CHURCH IS GOD’S ARRANGEMENT FOR PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDS OF DESTITUTE SAINTS. 1 Cor. 16:1-2, etc.

V. THE LOCAL CHURCH PROVIDES THE OVERSIGHT TO HELP CHRISTIANS EXPERIENCE PROPER SPIRITUAL GROWTH. 1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 14:23

Obey those who rule over you & be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy & not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Heb. 13:17).

VI. THE LOCAL CHURCH IS THE AGENCY GOD HAS CHO-

SEN TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BRETHREN.
Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 6:1

VII. THE LOCAL CHURCH IS VALUABLE IN THAT IT PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WEEKLY COMMEMORATING CHRIST'S SACRIFICIAL DEATH. Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-26

VIII. THE LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT FOR CHRIST "WALKS" IN THE MIDST OF IT. Rev. 2:1; 1:20

IX. PAUL FURNISHES FURTHER INSIGHT INTO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH.

A. Upon his arrival in Jerusalem, the first thing he did was to seek to join himself to the local body of saints, Acts 9:26

B. He commended Phebe to the church in Rome, 16:1-2.

C. He wrote 9 letters to local churches, admonishing them to be faithful to the Lord.

D. He wrote at least 3 letters to preachers who were working with & among local churches.

X. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH IN ORDER TO FOLLOW THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST AND HIS APOSTLES, 2 John 9-11.

Springhill, LA, April 7, 1974

La Porte, TX, December 4, 1977

La Porte, TX, May 24, 1981

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, July 18, 1993