What The Church Is All About (Ephesians 1:22-23)

Tony Mauck · Ephesians 1:22–23

INTRODUCTION

- The church is not about a physical meeting place or a physical facility. This is just a building so that the church can meet.
- Who is the church? Those who have received redemption through his blood.
- The church is his body. The church sustains a unique relationship to Jesus Christ. He is the head of the body, the church.

1 To Him Be the Glory in the Church

Ephesians 3:20–21; Ephesians 1:6; Ephesians 1:12

- He is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or even think.
- To him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus.
- I read those three phrases in chapter one to the praise of the glory of his grace.
- So when I talk about what the church is all about, it is to the praise of his glory.

2 The Reasons for God's Praise in the Psalms

Psalm 29; Psalm 103:10; Psalm 147:4–5

- If we understand what the church is really all about, I really believe we would instead desire it, crave it, want to. To bring God the praise that belongs rightfully to him.
- What he has done in creation alone. But beyond that, what he has done in history.
- His character, his mercy, his knowledge, his power, his wisdom, his holiness. And the fact that he is eternal by nature.
- He has not dealt with us according to our sins.
- He counts the stars and he knows them all by name. His understanding is infinite.
- From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

3 It Is for Our Benefit That We Praise

Psalm 50

- It is not because God has some ego that needs to be stroked. It is for us that we praise. It is for our benefit.
- The sacrifices are for you. They're for your benefit. You're not doing me a favor.
- And so it is for our good that we offer praise.

4 Praise Alters Our Perspective

Psalm 73; Isaiah 6

- Praise alters our perspective. And I've got to tell you, the world is altering our perspective all the time.
- When I came to the sanctuary of God, I saw their end.
- In light of his eternity, our problems are seen as temporary. In light of his power, our difficulties appear smaller.
- It brings us a clarity about God.
- We need to contemplate these works of God, this character of God, the awesome nature of God, so that we can properly see ourselves.
- We need the lowering of self that comes from the knowledge that God is so much greater than us.

5 His Goodness in the Past Calls Us to Trust

Nehemiah 9

- His reliance on the future hopes that he had for his people rested in the God who had acted on behalf of his people in the past.
- That God who acted in the past has demonstrated his trustworthiness to help us all that we need in the present.

6 Our Praise Removes Fear

Psalm 27:1

- We have a lot of fear about a lot of things. But understanding who God is eliminates fear.
- The Lord is the defense of my life. Whom shall I dread?

THE CHALLENGE

The praise of his glory is what we're to be all about. Both now and into eternity. Both now and forever. Amen. And is that true of you?

MY NOTES