When God Thinks Of The Church, Christ

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INTRODUCTION

- When you think about the church of Christ, what comes to mind?
- I want to talk to you this morning about when God thinks of the church of Christ and whether our thinking matches his.

1 He Thinks of Saved Individuals

Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 20:28; Colossians 2:6–12

- When God thinks of the church of Christ, he thinks of those and only those who have been baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- The church of God and the church of Christ are the same thing. Shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.
- Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with him through faith in the working of God who raised him from the dead.
- When men often think of the church of Christ, they think of a denomination by that name. Which, if it exists, I am not a part of it.
- Everyone who might claim to be his church, well, that doesn't necessarily make them right before God.

2 That Number Is Unknown to Men

2 Chronicles 16:9; Matthew 4:4; Galatians 6:7

- Can you imagine how difficult it would be to try to determine throughout the whole world how many that number included?
- But here's the comforting thought. That the Lord knows those that are his.
- Man's judgment also is limited by what he knows. God knows hearts.
- The eyes of the Lord search to and fro throughout the earth to strongly support those whose hearts are completely his.
- This group of people, the saved, are those who first and foremost submit themselves to the will of God.

3 Those Who Have Obedient Hearts

2 Corinthians 5:20–21; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 17:6

- Those who have obedient hearts, who seek to remove all that is imperfect and not consistent with being in his likeness.
- Becoming more like him is the goal of every person who is a member of the church of Christ.

- He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in him.
- We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.
- We do not excuse failure nor treat it as insignificant, but neither do we allow it to control us or cause us to quit.

4 An Indivisible Body

Ephesians 5:25–27; Ephesians 4:13–15

- When God thinks of the church of Christ, he thinks of an indivisible body composed of members of varying degrees of spiritual growth.
- The Lord's body is indivisible. You can't divide the Lord's church. Local churches can divide.
- The church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she should be holy and blameless.
- This body is composed of only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

5 He Thinks of His Son, Their Only Savior

Hebrews 13:8; Acts 4:10–12; Titus 2:11–13

- He thinks of his son, Jesus the Christ, and him as their only Savior.
- Jesus Christ is the same. Yesterday, today, and forever.
- There is no other name under heaven. No other given among men by which we must be saved.
- Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.
- To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever.

THE CHALLENGE

Our invitation is for you to come to know him through this message. And to belong to him by God's accounting, not the accounting of men.

MY NOTES