

# The Church: Prophecy & Purpose

(Acts 2)

- Introduction:
1. A common perception of the church today is that it is merely an afterthought in the mind of God.
  2. Such a view insults the power and intelligence of God and minimizes the importance of the church.
  3. According to the Scriptures, the church was part of the eternal purpose and wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10-11).
  4. This lesson is designed to remind us of the great care God took to establish the church, and the indispensable nature of the church in God's scheme of redemption.

## I. The Church of Christ In Prophecy

- A. (Daniel 2:44) The kingdom would come in the days of the Roman kings.
- B. (Matthew 3:1-2) The kingdom is at hand.
- C. (Matthew 16:18-19) Jesus would build his church/kingdom.
- D. (Mark 9:1) Some would not die; kingdom would come with power.
- E. (Acts 2:1-3) Filled with the Holy Spirit
- D. (Isaiah 2:1-3).
  1. Last days - Acts 2:16-17.
  2. All nations would flow into it - Acts 2:5, 9-11.
  3. Go forth from Jerusalem - Acts 2:5,14.

## II. The Church of Christ In Purpose

- A. It is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
- B. It is to bring glory to God (Ephesians 3:21).
- C. It is to comfort and edify Christians (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- D. It is the body of saved individuals (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23).

- Conclusion:
1. Brethren, may we never be numbered among those who would stand opposed to the church, constantly critical, and minimizing its importance in the scheme of redemption.
  2. On the contrary, may we be ever found loving, defending, and acknowledging the church's place in the divine plan and purpose of God.
  3. If the church is so important that Christ would shed his blood for it, then...
    - a. If you're not a member of the church, why are you not?
    - b. If you are a member of the church, are you functioning within the church to fulfill its divine purpose?