

The Lord's Churches.

Ephesians 5:25-27 *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*

We see here the words, *“as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”* The Lord's churches are special to the Lord Jesus Christ as they are to God our Heavenly Father. While the churches may be deteriorating in size, they are not in substance. Jesus told His churches in His great commission to the church at Jerusalem in **Matthew 28:20b** *“...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* The Lord told the seven churches in Asia Minor

Revelations 2:1b *“...These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;”* I am walking among you and Christ promised that He would never leave not forsake His people or His churches. Jesus loves His churches so much He gave His life for them. His goal, which He will accomplish is *“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”* The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, **2**

Corinthians 11:1 - 2 *“Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. (2) For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”* The Lord's churches are the pride of our Lord in which He receives many blessings from to His joy. The Lord has made His

churches His pillar and ground of His Truth on the earth. **1 Timothy 3:15** *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”* And the churches that remain faithful in being that pillar and ground of truth will also be His bride in heaven. **John 3:29** *“He*

that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.” We that have had the opportunity given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ to lead the

Lord's churches throughout the more than two-thousand years since Jesus started the first church in Jerusalem during His earthly ministry, we must rejoice in that work. What a call and challenge it has been, but also the pure pleasure that our Lord has blessed us with. Paul in speaking to the

to the Ephesian Elders reminded every Pastor throughout the history of the churches of this one single command, **Acts 20:27 - 28** *“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. (28) Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”* And we as church members must be honored to have been selected by God’s own power to be a privileged member of the Lords churches. This was not of our own selves but by God Himself. **1 Corinthians 12:18** *“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”* What a glorious honor God has given to each and every one of us. This is the Lord’s church, let us hold our heads high, let us be honored that the Lord hath chosen us to be His servants at this glorious time of history, that is the day of apostasy when so many have left, that the Lord Jesus Christ, has chosen us to remain His faithful few. God help us to remain true and faithful to Him Who has been True and Faithful to us. Let us all stand-up and praise God our Father and His Beloved Son Jesus Christ for where we are in this time of His Churches. And let us thank Him because He is still walking in the mist of the churches.

A. The churches are still His.

1. Let us never forget that the churches are still God’s greatest institution on earth.
2. This church, and churches of like faith that still believe and walk in the pillar and ground of His Truth, are His, and one day we will be His bride.
3. His message is clear to us, **Rev. 2:7** *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...”*

B. Two things we need to remember.

1. He holds us and He will never leave us on our own.
 - a. This is His Divine support for us. **Psalms 31:22 - 24** *“For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee. (23) O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. (24) Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.”*
 - b. We cannot function as a church without the Lord. **John 15:4 - 5** *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He*

that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

c. And we need never forget Christ’s Promise to us.

2. He has a Divine Presence in His churches. **Romans 8:37 - 39** “*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. (38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

C. He walks with His churches.

1. This means there is a Divine presence in the churches. It also means He is actively walking with them.
2. This also means that the Lord is aware of all the concerns and the state of His churches.
3. If we look at the seven churches in Asia Minor, He began with the words “I know”. He not only knows our works but every detail about our church. He knows!
4. We do not have one need, one issue, or one concern that Jesus does not know about.

D. In Conclusion Let us understand.

1. Everything is ordained by the will and power of God. Acts 17:28a “*For in him we live, and move, and have our being...*”
2. Luke wrote in **Luke 20:38** “*For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.*” – meaning the Lord’s church get their life, strength, and power from God, since Christ continues to walk among and with is, there is purpose and life.
3. Paul wrote in **Colossians 1:17 - 18** “*And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (18) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*” – the word “consist” means is held together or standing firm.
4. Beloved, let us stand together with our Lord and churches Head, and let us continue to march forward until Jesus comes.