

THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

Beloved of the Lord:

The heavenly position and character of the Church is little realized through the lack of spiritual intelligence. This leads to failure of understanding the eternal and heavenly scope of the Church's destiny. Many Christians are just satisfied in being assured of their salvation but fail to enjoy their present position in "the heavenlies". Read Eph. Ch.1 thru 3. Neither do they grasp the prophetic truth concerning the glorious future of the Church as the Bride of Christ.

The eternal glory of the Church will exceed the coming glory of Israel. To the saints the Apostle Paul wrote - "that ye may KNOW what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints"-Eph. 1:18. Christ, AS MAN, will take the inheritance of ALL THINGS, in order that the Church, bought by His blood, may inherit ALL THINGS with Him, His purified and glorified co-heir. Eph. 5:27; Rom.8:17. The Saviour. in John 17:22 prayed to His Father - "the glory which Thou hast given me, I have given them". Let us consider two great facts -

1 - CHRIST IS THE POSSESSOR OF ALL THINGS according to God's purpose-Eph. 1:11. The Lord Jesus said - "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given ALL THINGS into His hands"-Jno.3:35 In Heb. 1:2 it is written that God appointed His Son as the "heir of ALL THINGS". Also, in Col. 1:15-18 we read that Christ is Creator--of "ALL THINGS" and that they "were created by Him and for Him". This Scripture names Him as "head of the Body, the Church", for in such nearness to Him we shall share with Him all He has as His purchased Bride! Let us consider the second fact -

2 - THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST - and as such, we will participate in ALL that He has, and in all that He is, except His Deity, though possessed of His-divine nature - 2 Pet.1:4. Let us look at this in a two fold way -

(a) - We shall have the joy and glory of possessing CHRIST HIMSELF! and He will have the joy of possessing His Bride for HIMSELF! This is His desire - "that He might present it to HIMSELF a glorious church" - Eph. 5:27. Paul rightly declares - "This is a great mystery, BUT I speak concerning Christ and the church" - Why did He love us? Why did He die for us? - but to have us FOR HIMSELF! Did He not leave us His parting promise - "I will come again and receive you unto - MYSELF" - John 14:3. He bought us for HIMSELF and intends to enjoy His blood bought Bride and for us to ENJOY HIM! Dwell not on the coming glory we are to share with Him, but rather on HIS LOVE. His love toward us and for us, far greater than ALL the glory! It is love that "passeth knowledge". He is our ETERNAL LOVER and though we sing "Jesus loves me this I know" - we have a lot to learn about His love, for it is ceaseless, boundless and endless!--- wonder of wonders, IT IS CAUSELESS! "I have loved you BECAUSE I have loved you" -see Deut. 7:8. It "passeth knowledge" indeed!!

(b) - We shall BE HEAVENLY and LIVE HEAVENLY FOR EVER! Read 1 Cor. 15:47-49. What a blessed and welcome change. Our eternal abode is called "the heavenly Jerusalem" - see Rev. 21:2; Rev. 21:9-22:5. Neither forget we belong to it NOW - Heb. 12:22. There will be no enemy to spoil that eternal abode, for Satan and his hosts who are now in the heavenlies according to Eph. 6:12, are to be cast out forever from their present domain. The heavenlies will be filled with glory of Christ and His Bride! The Church will be eternally displayed as GOD'S MASTERPIECE - Read Eph. 2:7 and 3:21.

If our hearts and minds were more occupied with these facts, filled with hope by the Spirit, we would be more separated from this world and enabled to live down HERE as being in heart up THERE! Can we not confess that we owe to HIM all our thoughts and all our hearts? This HE will have through ALL eternity when we see Him face to face! May the expressed desire of the Apostle Paul be ours - "That I may KNOW HIM" - Phil. 3:10.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

