

## WHY ARE WE HERE? Eph 2:19-22

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Why are we here? Why do we exist as a church? What is our purpose as a collective of God's people?
- B. Periodically we need to take stock of our situation and reappraise our goals, and this is our purpose in this study
- C. This building is not the church - the church is a collectivity of people Acts 2:47; 1Pet 2:5
  - 1. The building is an expedient authorized by the command to assemble Heb 10:25
  - 2. As a collectivity we meet in this building for the purpose of furthering the plan and purpose God had in mind for the church
- D. There is a very dire need for scriptural churches and when we cease to operate according to the scriptures we forfeit the right to be called a "church of Christ."
- E. Our goal should be to labor as if we were the only church of the Lord on earth, fulfilling our God given purpose.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. TO SUPPORT THE TRUTH 1Tim 3:15

- A. Take a look at the early church
  - 1. Continued in the apostles doctrine Acts 2:42
  - 2. Holding forth the word of life Phil 2:14-16
- B. Note the importance of truth
  - 1. It is a body of inspired scriptures 2Jhn 1:4
  - 2. It is the revelation of the mind of God 1Cor 2:7-13
  - 3. It is complete and final revelation 2Tim 3:16,17; Jude 3
- C. We must hold to the pattern of truth; of sound doctrine 2Tim 1:13
- D. We are to be set to defend the truth Phil 1:7, 17, 27
- E. What all this means is that we will respect the silence of the scriptures 1Pet 4:11; We will speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where it is silent

#### II. TO GUARD AGAINST ERROR Col 2:6-8

- A. Some act as if there were and are no false teachers: Note Matt 24:11; 2Pet 2:1-3
  - 1. Our greatest danger is from within Acts 20:29-31
  - 2. There have been "false apostles" 2Cor 11:13-15 and "false brethren" 2Cor 11:26
  - 3. They were named in N. T. times 1Tim 1:19,20; 2Tim 2:17; 4:14, 15
  - 4. False teachers are not all dead and need to be named

#### B. What should be my attitude toward them?

- 1. Love their souls Jhn 3:16; 2Pet 3:9
- 2. Beware of them Matt 7:15
- 3. Do not fellowship them Eph 5:11
- 4. Avoid them, mark them Rom 16:17
- 5. Rebuke them Tit 1:13
- 6. Don't bid them God speed 2Jhn 9-11
- 7. Watch for them 2Tim 4:1-5

#### III. TO LABOR AND WORK FOR AND WITH GOD. 1Cor 3:9

- A. All members of the body must function Rom 12:3-8; Eph 4:16; 1Cor 12:14-27
  - 1. Worship Jhn 4:23-24 - Attendance Heb 10:25
  - 2. Bible classes 2Pet 3:18
  - 3. Contribution 1Cor 16:1,2; 2Cor 9:7
- B. There is something everyone can do. (story to illustrate "Bears come in different sizes.")
- C. We are to strive to reach the lost so as to leave them without excuse Acts 20:26, 27; Also Ezek 3:4, 17-21

#### IV. TO PROMOTE BROTHERLY LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP.

- A. A look at Eph 4:1-3
  - 1. Lowliness = humbleness
  - 2. Meekness = Gentle, mild. Closely linked with humility
  - 3. Endeavoring = make hast - be diligent
- B. A look at Rom 12:10, 16, 18
  - 1. Must be no quarreling and fussing among ourselves
  - 2. It takes work to get along with one another like we should

### CONCLUSION:

- A. We need to remember that "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" Eph 2:10
- B. It is our responsibility as Christians as part of God's collectivity to remember our purpose and to do our part in fulfilling that purpose
- C. If you are not a Christian you cannot fulfill that purpose. You need to follow the advice in Acts 2:40 "save yourself from this untoward generation."