

THE CHURCH

The church is God's plan for the human race, even before the foundation of the world. Knowing Adam and Eve would fall, He made provision for redemption through Jesus for a covenant body of people (John 17:21). He laid down His life for these, expecting them to be willing to lay down their life for one another (1 John 3:16); those who are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16); those called to labor with Him (1 Corinthians 3:9); those who are first-born and who have their names written in heaven.

Hebrews 12:22-23

*“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,
to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,”*

The Lord Himself is building a body of people, His household, to carry on His work here by carrying the truth and gospel to a dying world, thereby destroying the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

Matthew 16:18

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.”

1 Timothy 3:15

“but in case I am delayed, {I write} so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

The church is also known as the bride of Christ, who will live and reign with Him through all eternity. In fact, in the book of Ephesians, the Bible indicates that the model of the proper relationship of the husband and wife is the picture of Christ and His church (Ephesians 5: 22-32).

Revelation 19:7

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”

Revelation 21:2

“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.”