

THE MATERIAL OF THE “CHURCH”

Acts 16: 10, 13-39; Text vs. 10 (12-11-05)

INTRO: The content of the passages from last week’s message is vital to us, at least as an introductory to the development of building materials for the Church. What is the material out of which God becomes Immanuel to the world today? How does a world caught up in the distractions and details of life suddenly find “God with us” in a real way? Where is the demonstration of His fusing with man apparent? The Church must be fused with God and each other if they are to be the communication of God in their world. To be fused is to “*join or blend in order to form a single entity.*” God joined with flesh, by the Holy Spirit in order for a Savior to be born. One who felt, thought, and lived out our very existence, yet in victory!! Jesus prayed that we might be “one.” By the Holy Spirit something new would be birthed to carry out the ministry of Christ...The CHURCH. A people of single purpose and mission...the channel of the Holy Spirit.

SUBMISSIVE, SENT OUT, AND SET OUT:

Submission to the Holy Spirit: Paul had made it clear (Acts 16:6) that they had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to pursue their plans. We showed how the word “hupo” means primarily under the Holy Spirit. A position of submission. After Paul’s vision they “concluded” (16:10), that they were called and set out to preach the Gospel in Macedonia. Wouldn’t it be something to know that every plan, every program, every purpose in this place was initiated, or prevented under the Holy Spirit? Is that far fetched? Is that just a dream? Is that not practical enough? How would we know when we are bearing out the fruit of the Spirit? Are my ears such that I hear what He hears? Are my eyes such that I see what He sees? If my body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, how much more my mind and my spirit. Maybe the real answer is in the next premise.

Submission to one another: We talked of how the word concluded [sumbibazo] meant to be “knit together” and we referenced Colossians 2:2, and 2:19 as having the same meaning. The further meaning of this word (sumbibazo) is to “instruct or to prove” (1Cor 2:16, Acts 9:22). Now let’s look at Colossians 2: 2-3 in that context, as a setting for the development of the Church at Philippi. Do you see the power of this word concluded? Can you imagine that every time you used the word “concluded” that you would mean this? Why not?

The captain of the ship looked into the dark night and saw faint lights in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message" "Alter your course 10 degrees south." Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north." The captain was angered; his command had been ignored. So he sent a second message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south--I am the captain!" Soon another message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north--I am seaman third class Jones." Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course 10 degrees south--I am a battleship." Then the reply came "Alter your course 10 degrees north--I am a lighthouse." Paul Aiello, Jr.(edited)

When we are knit together, regardless of our position or power *we can count on the lighthouse* of the Revelation of Jesus Christ in our lives. We must view all Scripture in its’ context. Let’s look at Colossians 1:24-29. Look at the attitude in verse 24, I rejoice! Look at Paul’s mission in verse 25, to fulfill the word of God! Look in verse 27, what God has willed to make known to the body, Christ IN you, the hope of glory! Look in verse 28 at the goal of this revelation, to present every man complete IN Christ Jesus! Look in verse 29 at the One who pulls it off, I labor according to His working which works in me mightily! Now look again at Colossians 2: 2-3. Knit together, attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. This results in the CHURCH becoming the MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST...IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY.