

Importance of the Assembly

by William MacDonald

The assembly is the body of Christ, the redeemed church, and the place where God's best for our lives is found.

Duration: 33:34

Scripture: Psalm 126:5, Proverbs 14:12, Matthew 16:18, Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 3:9, Colossians 1:25

Topics: "Assembly"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of not changing the message of the Gospel, but being open to changing the methods of delivering it. He uses the example of cereal companies improving their packaging to boost sales without changing the product itself. The purpose of life is seen as serving the Lord within the context of the local church, and the speaker encourages aspiring leaders to step up and serve. The speaker also highlights the significance of the church in the New Testament and the enthusiasm with which the apostles spoke about it.

Transcript

Zechariah. I wish with all my heart that those books had never been called the minor prophets. That's not what they're supposed to be, minor prophets, but it's what too often they are in the lives of the Christians.

I think that they're perhaps the most neglected part of the Bible, don't you think so? The minor prophets. Praise God. We find His blessed face wherever we look.

Would you turn with me now to Ephesians chapter 3, and what we're going to speak about this afternoon is rather linked chronologically with what we've had before us. Brother Carl has been describing most vividly the rejection of the Lord Jesus by the nation of Israel. But God wasn't frustrated by that one thing.

God had a secret in His mind all the time, the secret concerning the Church, to bring in consequent upon the rejection of the King by Israel. And that's what I'd like to speak to you about this afternoon, the assembly. And before we ever read this portion of the word, I'd like to ask you for every one of us to answer in our hearts, what place does the assembly have in my life? How important is God's assembly to me? This is what I'd really like to think about with you this afternoon.

Ephesians chapter 3 and verse 1. For this cause I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward, how that by revelation he made known unto me that I am of the same body, and partaker by the gospel, whereof I was made in

Christ. And I was made in Christ. And I was made in a new society, and in many ways the most privileged society in all of God, that he was formed, made up of all, and ultimately would head up a redeemed church with this church as his bride, sharing forever.

And it really is marvelous when you start to think of it that God would ever take over a redeemed universe. And I'd like to suggest to you this afternoon that this which was, we're believing, as we read in verse, something that was never, members of the part of God. And I'd like to suggest to you that in an evangelical, but it isn't taboo among us, praise in the New Testament.

I believe not only in the inspiration of the Bible, you're not building with God, and you're marching to the beat of a different drummer. And you know that's all too possible. And then God says, he's in your life.

Then I see, and I see something else about it, and I suggest to you today, we've lost. And it's very significant. And to me, in other words, there were two, and it's the second.

If he had just gone and fill up that in my flesh, oh certainly it doesn't mean that this was, there were other books added. Fourthly, I read in the name to the, and they looked down, men and women, I often think of that little as, imagine, wonderful when the angelic beings look down, and putting, is the only unit on earth to which God, he said, but in, to the extent that that organism, I really missed God's best for my life. Because God never promised perpetuity.

Is the assembly really, I'll break in in verse 20, well really it beggars human language but in his mouth, I'm going to just tear that piece of paper in half. If this is Christ, and this is the church, that you and I, saved by his matchless grace, and united in him, in the body, all in all. I tell you, I wouldn't believe this.

They're just two, I read that the assembly is the body of Christ, of greater nearness. And not only the body of Christ, but, and if the body speaks of nearness and intimacy, the deepest affection. Christ also loved the church, and gave himself.

And I try to, and that brings me to say this, and I read, means more to him than the greatest empire in the world. He said, oh brother our assembly, and I read there that the nations to him, are a drop of, doesn't carry any weight, it really humbles my heart, and has many members. Remember the weakest representative, and I'd like to suggest something else to you this afternoon, that the elder, any particular elder, is more important, won't find very much instruction in the new testament.

What does it tell me? It tells me, and really, it's time we recaptured that, in our own thinking. Honestly, you know very well, just as I do, or the education doesn't have more glamour to God, and it's just about time. By the world, and by its, I'd like to suggest to you that the local, is the unit on earth.

It's taken me years to come to this, and I, but I really believe, as I stand before you, E. H. Lange says in his book, The Churches of God, in our service, and this is what we have, but we have a, organizational Christianity, an empire building, a very, now that brings me to say this, we live in a tremendous day, we live in a day, when people oppressed by ritual new testament pattern, and the books are coming, they want to get back, they want, people have never heard anything, movement towards, but I'd like to suggest just a few things to you as we close, things that we ought to wait, we must as Christians be willing to, generally speaking, I feel we, and when a, when a, a people about us, or did companies that, uh, they did, and the sales began to boom, well that's to believe that we should get away from this terrible tendency to, in that sense, but in that sense, Jehovah's Witnesses don't spend money, they don't spend, I'd like to

suggest that what we need is a new love, and loyalty, and faithfulness, really I do, but on the other hand, when we come to put the same effort, the same energy, and the same devote on the table, and serving the Lord in the context of God's looking for men today, you want your life to, you'll have your heart broken, you'll have to be, remember, the man who aspires, the assembly is, I ask myself, are you

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