

**RESTORATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH  
OR  
RESTORATION OF NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY**  
Sermon by Donald Townsley

**RESTORING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH**

Introduction:

1. We live in an age in which men look upon the church as being of little importance.
2. Many think of the church as being a human arrangement.
3. The church is important to God, and should therefore be important to you.
4. No one can fully appreciate the importance of the church until he realizes what the Bible teaches the church to be.

**I. WHAT THE CHURCH IS:**

1. The church is the eternal purpose of God -- Eph. 3: 8 - 11.
  - (1) God purposed before the world to have Christ to purchase and to build the church.
  - (2) The church is not an accident or afterthought in the mind of God.
2. The church is an exemplification of God's wisdom -- Eph. 3:10.
  - (1) The church exemplifies the Wisdom of God.
  - (2) It is a demonstration of God's "Manifold Wisdom".
  - (3) The word "Manifold" -- many sided.
  - (4) Heavenly creatures and intelligent creatures of earth can look at the church from any side and see exemplified the wisdom of God.
3. The church is the creation of God.
  - (1) Man should be interested in anything that God teaches or does.
  - (2) One important thing that God did was to create the church -- Eph. 2:15; 2:10; 4:24; Heb. 8:2; Col. 3:10; 2 Cor. 5:17.
    1. God purposed it.
    2. God designed it.
4. The church is the body of Christ -- Eph. 1: 22, 23; Col. 1: 18.
  - (1) If the body of Christ is unimportant, then Christ Himself is unimportant.
  - (2) All who respect the Word of God recognize that Christ is important.
  - (3) The Bible teaches that the church is the body of Christ, it must therefore follow that the church is important.
5. The church is the fullness of Christ -- Eph. 1: 22,23.
  - (1) The expression "*the fullness of Christ*".
  - (2) It means that the boundaries of Christ and the church are CO-EXTENSIVE.
  - (3) It means that whatever is available "in Christ" is enjoyed in the church of Christ.

**II. WHAT THE CHURCH COST.**

1. It is customary for us to appraise items by their price tag.
2. The price paid for the church is indicative of the importance of the church to Christ and to God.
3. The church cost the blood of Christ -- Acts 20:28; I Pet. 1: 18 - 19; I Cor. 6: 19 - 20; Eph. 5:25

### **III. WHAT IS IN THE CHURCH.**

1. Reconciliation is in the church -- Eph. 2:16.
2. Salvation is in the church -- 2 Tim. 2:10; Eph. 5:23.
3. Redemption is in the church -- Eph. 1:7.  
(1) No way for one to have the redemption in Christ without being added to the church.
4. Sanctification is in the church -- Eph. 5: 25 - 26.
5. All spiritual blessings are in the church -- Eph. 1:3.

### **CONCLUSION**

1. In this lesson, we have studied the importance of the church in the plan of God.
2. It should occupy first place in your life and mine -- Matt. 6:33.

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