

## THE CHURCH IN GOD'S PROGRAM

Intro. Impt of ch. Eph 5:25; Rev 21:9,22-23. Even local impt to X, Rev 2-3.

### I. The Distinctiveness of the church

- A. Not in OT times. If were, then not body of X (1Cor 12, Rom 12 1st uses), no risen Head, no way to get in.
- B. Began at Pentecost. John 1:33 (God-Jn) Mat 3:11 (Jn-people) Acts 1:5; 11:15-16 (v17 cf Acts 16:31); 1Cor 12:13.

### II. The Declension of the Ch

A. Concept of Apostasy. Departure from truth previously accepted by breaking the professed relationship. Acts 21:21 (Moses), Lk 8:13 (rock), 1 Tim 4:1; Heb 3:12. Acts 20:29-30, 2 Tim 3 (not the word).

#### B. Characteristics.

- 1. Doctrine, Deny trinity, 1 Jn 2:22-3; incarnation, 4:3; 2nd coming, 2 Pet 3:4.
- 2. Ethics, 2 Tim 3:2-5.  
incontinent=lack of self-control  
fierce=untamed, wild  
heady=rash, reckless  
highminded=raise a smoke  
18 total (boasters, v2, not in text)  
Increase is what is relevant

#### C. Climax, Rev 17

- 1. Harlot. 2. Ecumenical. 3. Unites ch and state.
- 4. Federation, v. 6. Persecutes saints, 6.
- 7. Destroyed by antiX, 16.

Ecum movmt will wax and wane. Look for 1 ch in neighborhood, 1 school on field, 1 organ to represent before govt. Look for doctrine that unites.

#### D. Cure for apostasy in present

No cure till X comes. But right courses of action.

- 1. Examine self. Doct, ethics.
- 2. Teach, 2 Tim 2:24-26
- 3. Turn away, 2 Tim 3:5
- 4. Trust right way, 2 Tim 3:14

### III. The Deliverance of the Ch

1 Thes 4:13. Return, rapture, res, reunion.

When? Before beg of Day of Lord, 5:1-10.

Affirmed by Rev 3:10. Ill of out of or waiting up