

## THE CHURCH THE HUSBANDRY OF GOD

### Introduction:

1. The New Testament uses many terms and concepts to describe the church of Christ.
2. As members of the church, it is important for us to know what the church is – and what the Lord expects it to be.
3. Thus, as we study these divine descriptions of the church, we will learn how we are to conduct ourselves individually and as a congregation of God's people.
4. The role of the church in God's plan of redemption...
  - a. Eternal purpose
  - b. Connected to the crucifixion
  - c. Result of the resurrection
  - d. Established on Pentecost
5. Descriptive Designations of the Church:
  - a. "The Called Out"
  - b. The Body of Christ
  - c. The Bride of Christ
  - d. The Kingdom of Christ
  - e. The Saved
  - f. The House of God
  - g. The Temple of God
  - h. The Husbandry of God

### I. God as a Farmer

- A. God is pictured as a farmer at least three times in the Bible.
- B. In the beginning, God planted the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2).
  1. The Hebrew word for 'husbandry' is *Adamah* – from the name for Adam ("of the ground"), the first husbandman.
  2. Eden was a perfect home of abundant provision for man.
  3. However, due to sin, man was removed from the Garden and the ground was cursed – and ultimately destroyed by the Flood.
- C. Later, God planted the nation of Israel as His vineyard (Isa. 5).
  1. They were planted in the Promised Land and fenced in by the Law of Moses.
  2. However, due to sin, Israel brought forth "wild grapes" and was ruined.
- D. Finally, God planted the church as His husbandry.
- E. The word 'husbandry' refers to a field, orchard, or vineyard.
  1. The Greek word is defined as, "A cultivated field; tillage."
  2. Thus, a husbandry is a parcel of land that is prepared for the planting of crops and the production of fruit.

### II. Israel as a Vineyard

(Isaiah 5:1-7)

- A. Israel was a vineyard planted on a fruitful hill.
- B. It was prepared – by removing stones.
- C. It was planted – with the best vine.
- D. It was protected – by a fence and a tower.
- E. It was purposed – a winepress was built.
- F. It was pruned – by the owner or hired laborers.

## Biblical Description of the Church

Lesson Twelve

1 Corinthians 3:6-9

- G. God asked what more could have been done for His vineyard.
- H. Sadly, because of Israel's rebellion, God's vineyard had to be destroyed – first by Babylon, then by Rome.

### III. The Church as God's Husbandry

(1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

- A. The church belongs to God – it is His land for planting and producing.
  - 1. He knows the soil, for He created man (Gen. 1; Matt. 13).
  - 2. He knows the seed, for He gave the Gospel (Luke 8:11).
  - 3. He knows the seasons, for He controls all (John 7:17).
- B. This understanding will prevent the forming of factions in the Lord's church (1 Cor. 3:1-5).
- C. Though the field belongs to God, He has workers who serve as laborers in His vineyard (cf. Matt. 20:1-16).
  - 1. Note that those who enter the vineyard do so to labor!
  - 2. Some only want to enjoy the grapes (Eph. 1:3) without doing the work!
- D. Thus, the duty of each Christian is to bear fruit for the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58; Rom. 7:4; etc.).
  - 1. This includes the fruit of Christian character (cf. Gal. 5:22-23).
  - 2. This includes the fruit of Christian converts (cf. Matt. 9:37-38).
- E. To accomplish this goal, many and varied labors are required.
  - 1. Some plant. *Evangelize*
  - 2. Some water. *Teach*
  - 3. Some weed. *Reprove, rebuke*
  - 4. Some fertilize. *Exhort, encourage*
  - 5. Note that all must work together – both with one another and with the Lord.
- F. Those who do not work and bear fruit will be pruned by the Lord (John 15:1-8).
- G. Finally, there will be a harvest in which all glory belongs to the Lord (cf. John 4:34-38; 1 Cor. 3:6-7).