

THE CITY OF GOD
Last in Our Series on the Church

Introduction

Over the last four weeks, we have examined various doctrinal aspects of the church. We have defined the Biblical concept of what the church is. We have further defined that indeed there is a difference between the church that Jesus built and that which a man might build. And finally, we have discussed the differences between what the church does on an individual basis and what it might do corporately. In the future, we will no doubt revisit this important area of teaching and perhaps do so in greater detail. But, this morning, we would like to finish up this series by looking at the value of the church as seen from the viewpoint of God. We have seen the importance to us.... let's examine its importance to God.

I. THE BIBLE DEFINES THE CHURCH AS A “CITY OF GOD...THE NEW JERUSALEM”.

Hebrews 12:18-24

II. THIS CITY OF GOD IS DEFINED AS THAT WHICH REPLACES THE OLD JERUSALEM.

Revelation 21:1-22:4

The conventional teaching is that these chapters describe our eternal reward which awaits all the faithful...but what if we have missed it and its not describing Heaven, but rather the church...that group of people for which Heaven awaits.

- A. Note what this new “city” replaces. The Old Jerusalem (Jewish Society) has been destroyed.
- B. That which replaced the Old Jerusalem is not Heaven...it is the church.
- C. This magnificent description of the New Jerusalem is how God describes the church...it is available to us now.
- D. Heaven awaits us in eternity.

Conclusion

This description of how God views the church (a group of people) should spur us on to purer life, to spreading the gospel, and to maintaining the oneness that God intends.