

PERFECT THINGS ABOUT THE CHURCH

Introduction

- 1) **1 Corinthians 3:11** – Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church
 - a) Jesus is not one of many foundations – He is the **only** foundation – and it is **perfect!**
 - b) “Perfect” = without defect or flaw, complete, blameless
- 2) Consider the many aspects about the church that are perfect and flawless

I) **Perfect Foundation**

- A) There is no other foundation of the church than Jesus (1 Cor. 3:11)
 - 1) No cracks, loose fill, or bad mortar in this one perfect foundation
 - 2) The chief cornerstone (Psa. 118:22; Isa. 28:16 → 1 Pet. 2:4-7)
- B) Ephesians 2:19-20 – foundation of the apostles and prophets
 - 1) They revealed and preached the name and authority of Jesus Christ

II) **Perfect Head/King**

- A) Jesus is the one and only Head of the body, the church (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; Col. 1:18)
- B) Jesus is the one and only King over the kingdom of God (Jn. 18:37)

III) **Perfect Beginning**

- A) Prophesied as to place, occasion, and time (Isa. 2:3; Joel 2:28; Dan. 2:44)
- B) Fulfilled on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - 1) *Place* – Jerusalem
 - 2) *Occasion* – pouring out of Holy Spirit
 - 3) *Time* – Roman Empire

IV) **Perfect Name/Designation**

- A) Churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16)
- B) Church of God 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Acts 20:28; Gal. 1:13)
- C) House of God (1 Tim. 3:15); Household of God (Eph. 2:19)

V) **Perfect Organization**

- A) Congregational, not universal (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2)
 - 1) Autonomous, local churches (elders, deacons - Phil. 1:1)
- B) Government is a monarchy, not a democracy (Eph. 1:19-22)

VI) **Perfect Message**

- A) Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17): New Testament (Heb. 1:1-2; Acts 2:42)
- B) Perfect law of liberty (Jas. 1:25)

VII) **Flawed Human Substitutions**

- A) Foundations of human doctrines, earthly heads, beginnings after NT, designations about men or movements, human organizations, and human creeds and disciplines

Conclusion

Is there anything less than perfect about the church? *Yes – you and I!* Local churches are made up of members that struggle to be what they should be and have to face their own failures (ex. Corinth, Sardis, Ephesus, etc.) (1 Cor. 3:1f), but this is no excuse to avoid being a member of a local church, or to lose faith in God

Let us strive to reflect the perfection of Christ in our worship and service to God (Matt. 5:48).
By the gospel we are made perfect in Christ (Col. 1:28; 2:10). Be saved today!!