



What Can Destroy A Local Church?

Some things are indestructible

1. God. 1 Tim.1:17

a. Eternal (*King of ages*)

b. Immortal (*imperishable*)



Earlier:

‘God is dead’ – Nietzsche.

20 years later:

‘Nietzsche is dead’ – God.

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2. Truth. 1 Pt.1:22-25

Ask people which part of Bible they do not believe –

1. Adam and Eve

2. Noah and Flood

3. Jonah and Fish

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1. God. 1 Tim.1:17
2. Truth. 1 Pt.1:22-25
3. Soul. Mt.10:28

‘And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell’

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2. Truth. 1 Pt.1:22-25
3. Soul. Mt.10:28
4. Church universal
 - a. Mt.16:18, gates . . . Hades
 - 1) **Gates:** counsel; armies march forth
 - 2) **Hades:** conquered all things human (Is.14); will not prevail / overpower / defeat church...

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 - b. Hb.12:25-28, things shakeable vs things that cannot be shaken

Local churches can be destroyed

1. Their usefulness lost
2. Their relation to Christ severed
 - a. Corinth
 - b. Galatia
 - c. Revelation

I. What Cannot Destroy A Church?

1. Persecution

- Ac.5:40-42
- 2 Co.11:24

- Rejoice over pain and disgrace?
 - Supports truth claims.

2. Loss of building, property

- 1 Co.11:22, authorized, expedient, but not necessary
- Col.4:15
- Jn.4:21-24

- Church is people, not material.
- Family still family if lose house.

3. Lack of funds

- Rv.2:9-10
- Rv.3:17
- 2 Co.9:6-7

4. Becoming a minority

- Rv.3:4, 8
 - “How is the church doing...?”
 - Other than Jerusalem, we don't know size of NT churches.

5. Lack of popularity

- Acts 2:47, popularity did not last
 - Acts 8:1-4, Jewish persecution
 - Acts 12:1-3, civil persecution

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets – Lk.6:26

I. What Cannot Destroy A Church?

II. What Can Destroy A Church?

1. False doctrine. (Gal.4)

- 8-11, observing days...

Once
slaves of
sin

GENTILES

Now
slaves to
Law

Jews
rejoice (10)

19: Paul,
the mother.
20, Paul,
the doubter.

Paul
fears (11)

2. **Brotherly hatred.** (Gal.5:15)

- Figure of jungle:
 - Tooth and claw reign
 - Wild animals devour
 - Deadly struggle

Disobedience always finds a way
. . . and an excuse.

3. Impure lives. (Gal.5:19-21)

- Congregation may remain . . . but relation with Lord is finally severed

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world – Ph.2

4. Laziness. (Gal.6:7-10)

- Mt.21:...41-43, faithlessness
- Jn.15:...6, fruitlessness
 - Does indifference destroy more churches than anything?
 - Spectator syndrome?

‘Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God’ – Rv.3:2

How to live our best for Him?

Each . . .

- Enters to worship, with enthusiasm
- Leaves with servant mentality
- Hungers for more knowledge
- Deeply concerned for lost
- Filled with brotherly love
- Sets morally pure example