

Message Three

Aspects of the Church as Revealed in Hebrews

Scripture Reading: Heb. 2:10-12; 1:9; 3:6; 4:9; 7:22; 9:15; 12:22-24, 28

I. The church is a living composition of the many sons of God, who are the many brothers of Christ brought forth in His resurrection—Heb. 2:10-12; Rom. 8:29; John 20:17; Heb. 1:5; 5:5; Acts 13:33; 1 Pet. 1:3:

- A. God is our divine Father, and we are His divine sons born of His divine life with His divine nature—John 20:17; Eph. 1:5; Gal. 3:26; John 1:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:4.
- B. As the many brothers of Christ, we are the same as the firstborn Son; He is divine and human, and we are human and divine—Heb. 2:11; 1:6; Rom. 8:29.
- C. The church is an organism with two lives and two natures combined and mingled together—Lev. 2:1-16:
 - 1. The church is altogether a matter of life—the divine life and the uplifted, resurrected human life—Rom. 1:3-4.
 - 2. The church has two natures—the human nature and the divine nature; thus, the church is both human and divine—Heb. 2:14, 11.

II. The church is a corporate partnership with Christ—Heb. 3:14; 1:9:

- A. The goal of God's operation in the universe is to accomplish a glorious expression of Himself—Heb. 2:10; John 17:1, 5, 22, 24; Rev. 21:10-11.
- B. The firstborn Son is God's appointed Heir, and we, the many sons, have been saved to be His joint-heirs, inheriting not only salvation but all things with Him—Heb. 1:14; Rom. 8:17; Gal. 4:7; Eph. 3:6; Titus 3:7.
- C. Since Christ as the firstborn Son of God is God's appointed Heir and we as the many sons of God are His joint-heirs, we are Christ's partners—Heb. 1:9; 3:14:
- D. As Christ's partners we share in His anointing and cooperate with Him in His operation to reach the goal of God's economy—the glorious expression of the Divine Being—Heb. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:21; Rev. 21:10-11.

III. The church, the enlargement of Christ, is the Sabbath rest—John 2:19, 21; 3:29a, 30; 1 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 3:6; 4:9:

- A. The individual Christ is God's Sabbath (Matt. 11:28-29), and the church is the enlargement of Christ; therefore, the church is also God's Sabbath rest.
- B. The church is God's satisfaction and rest because in the church God has His habitation for His expression and representation—Eph. 2:22.

IV. To come to the church is to come to the new covenant and to the heavenly New Jerusalem—Heb. 12:22-24; 8:7-13; 11:10, 16; Gal. 4:24-26:

- A. The new covenant, the heavenly Jerusalem, and the church are one.
- B. To receive the new covenant is to enter the New Jerusalem and come to the church:
 - 1. Hebrews 8 indicates that the old covenant of law has been replaced by the new covenant.
 - 2. Hebrews 12 says that we have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, to the Mediator of a new covenant, and to the church—vv. 22-23.

V. The church is the unshakable kingdom of God—Heb. 12:28:

- A. The unshakable kingdom which we are receiving is Christ with His enlargement:
 - 1. The kingdom is actually the Lord Himself as the kingdom within us—Luke 17:20-21; Mark 4:3, 26.
 - 2. Whereas the church is Christ's increase in life, the kingdom is Christ's increase in administration.
- B. In the church we are living in the kingdom of God today—John 3:3, 5; Rom. 14:17; Rev. 1:9.