



Charles Pinkney, Lesson 1 (12-11-2011)

A hymn tune that extolls the Church Age and the gospel outreach to the nations:

*We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.
Refrain:
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.*

In chapters 1-3 John mentions the churches 27 times

“The Church” the *ec-cles-si'a*

A voice like a trumpet says Come up hither. At chapter 4.

The church is not mentioned again until the closing chapter of Revelation, Chapter 22.

When John reiterates the message of hearing what the spirit is saying to the churches.

SOME POINTS TO BE MADE IN THIS LESSON 1

READER:

REVELATION CHAPTER 4, A DOOR OPENS TO TAKE JOHN INTO HEAVEN
CHAPTER 4, A DOOR OPENS TO TAKE JOHN INTO HEAVEN

Descriptions of what is seen in heaven

Throne

Light and Splendor

A majestic figure of one who is seated on the throne

The temple furniture

Living Creatures

A host of _____,

Others seated on Thrones and arrayed: Elders wearing *Stephanos, overcomer crowns,*

REGARDING THE 24 ELDERS:

CONJECTURE: Who are the 24 Elders?

Here is how noted pre-trib scholar Arnold Fruchtenbaum explains it,

"The identity of these twenty-four elders has been much debated. Some take it to refer to celestial beings, while others take it to refer to and represent the church. While the text does not clearly state as to what these twenty-four elders refer, there are clues in the text by which their identity can be deduced. First, these elders are clothed with white garments which throughout the Revelation are symbols of salvation. Celestial beings before the throne of God do not need salvation for they were not lost to begin with. But these elders were at one time lost and at some point received salvation as is seen by their wearing of the white garments.

John P, Burke: First of all, we believe that these elders are representatives of the New Testament Church because the term that is used here to designate them is *presbuteros* and such a term is particularly fitting to the Church. - - The word "elder" is a common word in our English Bibles and is found over two hundred times in various forms. In tracing the etymology of this word, it is interesting to note that apparently the word first was used of aged men and later acquired a technical sense of an office. This is readily understandable. In early times books were scarce and the aged men were the depositories of truth. The older men by reason of their experience as well exercised supreme authority. Great reverence was paid to them and because of their

matured wisdom, knowledge, experience and as a reward for their godly lives, the aged men from time immemorial were chosen to fill the official positions of the community. The name "elder" thus came to designate the office itself.

There are as many arguments as there are opinions; Redeemed saints, or Old testament figures?

So called scholars debate and do not resolve the question of who these beings are:

Therefore let's not make a large point over their identify as it is reserved as a mystery.

THE CHURCH (mentioned 27 X in Cs 1-3) IS NOT MENTIONED AFTER CHAPTER 3

The Culmination of the Church Age

The Culmination of the "Times of the Gentiles"

The Fulness of the Gentiles is a time in the Father's hand to culminate in the calling 'up hither'

DISCUSSION

THE CHURCH, Share your insights or understanding of the nature of "The Church"

The church is on earth (as it is at the present time.)

Chapter 4, The church is no longer mentioned

Chapter 4, John is called to "come up here" by a voice like a loud trumpet.

Discussion: Notions of the character and purpose of the church

Ecclesia: The called out ones.

THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN 2

Chapter 4 of Revelation

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THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH WAS ONLY HINTED AT IN OT PROPHECY

We will discuss this in more detail in Lesson 2 on 12/18

That the covenant of Israel Would in some way reach out and touch the Gentiles.
Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 42:1, Isaiah 42:6 Isaiah 49: 6 Isaiah 49:22 Isaiah 60:3
Isaiah 61:9, Isaiah 66:12, Etc.

New Testament Affirms God's continuing purposes and affection for Israel

Romans 11:1-2, Romans 11:11-12, Romans 11:25

The Gentiles were called to be fellow heirs of the house of Israel

Ephesians Chapter 3: And Old testament prophetic Scriptures speak of a time when the Gentiles will come in but does not speak of the church; Prophecy spoken to Mary.

Jesus was to become: "A light to lighten the gentiles."

Paradigms of "*the church*":

There is a difficulty in breaking a paradigm to accept another methodology or viewpoint.

How do we become members or partakers?

The church as the mystical body of Christ Jesus. Interconnectivity of all the members

READ:

Romans 12; 12-27

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14For the body is not one member, but many.

15If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.

25That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Ephesians 4: 15-16

15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The mystery of two becoming one, quoted in most Christian wedding ceremonies

Colossians: 2:19 -- *And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.*