

The Church as His Body

Unser Herr lebt, Issue 31
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みからだなる教会
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This message was written by Brother Beck in 1956 at the city of Nakaminato.

It is extremely important to examine whether or not the purpose of our missionary works matches that of the Lord Jesus. During His time, our Lord never questioned His mission. That is to say, our Lord showed no sign of purposelessness or uncertainty at all. Following the determination of His own will, our Lord proceeded to His death, was resurrected and still sits on the right side of the Father God in glory today. He sits there not to rest Himself, but to work. The Lord poured His entire Spirit into the accomplishment of this purpose. "I will build my church." This is the exact purpose of the Lord.

If we hope not to interrupt the work of the Lord, our missionary work should be aimed at building "the church in all its glory, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind, but holy and without fault." In ancient times, even the devil was aware of this purpose of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, the devil would not have so viciously resisted its fulfilment.

Those whose eyes were opened by the Lord to the mystery of churches always fell under vicious attack. They were deceived and tempted everywhere, even by their brothers.

The devil realized the significance of what was happening. What about us in this respect? Do we realize the seriousness of this matter as the devil and his army did? What is the target we should be aiming at as we continue all our services and missionary works? If we fail to recognize the purpose of the Lord clearly, we will lose track of ourselves during the course of the journey and end up being satisfied before our true purpose is fulfilled.

A long time ago, when I met this sister who had just obtained faith in the city of Nakaminato, she said with stars in her eyes that she loved verses 22 and 23 of the first chapter of Ephesians. It made me feel very happy to hear that. In these verses, it is written;

[Ephesians 1:22-23](#)

God has put everything under the Messiah's feet and has made him the head of everything for the good of the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills everything in every way.
[International Standard Version]

The Lord Jesus is 'imperfect' without such churches. In order to be perfect Himself, the Lord Jesus needs us. This means that the church is Jesus Himself and it is the body of the Lord.

How does the 'head without a body' look like? What kind of tree is the 'grapevine with no branch?' In other words, proclamation of the gospel to bring people to faith is not everything. It is also important today that all believers be placed under the governance of the Lord so that the dominance, strength and glory of Jesus are revealed through their lives. Is the Lord succeeding in opening our eyes to His intention? In this regard, if we are still stranded in the darkness and don't know which way to proceed, I must say that our situation is fatal. Suppose you ask your maid to go and get some bread, but she begins laundry, or that you tell her to prepare lunch, but she starts weeding your garden. You would never have a good word for her no matter how hard she devoted herself to these tasks. The same is largely true about the work of God in His kingdom.

"The church in all its glory, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind, but holy and without fault" should to be the goal we pursue. "Without a spot" refers to a condition in which there isn't even a trace of sin, while "without a wrinkle" implies that all causes of worry and pain such as old age or wasted time are gone. And "without fault" indicates that the devil and his demons have lost all reason to condemn us.

The apostles are awakened by the Holy Spirit and are calling to us;

[Ephesians 4:12-13](#)

to equip the saints, to do the work of ministry, and to build up the body of the Messiah until all of us are united in the faith and in the full knowledge of God's Son, and until we attain mature adulthood and the full standard of development in the Messiah.

We are not children anymore and we have to continue to grow.