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Morning Service

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Teaching Elder

The Promise of Church Discipline

We see depravity as a rising tide all around us. The Modern Evangelical Church explains this is all meant to be and according to plan. That we are witnessing the grand entrance of 'The Rapture' where the world as we know it gets so evil, so depraved, that God's people must be taken up and until such day we can remain hidden in our churches for refuge. But what state is this refuge in?

The tide of depravity has gone beyond lapping at the door of the Church. It has washed many of them off of their foundations such that their founders would scarcely recognize them.

The Church is the instrument King Jesus has established to conquer sin and death on this earth. We are the Kingdom of God, in the here and now. The great battle against Sin is not in the future and will not be fought for us with a heavenly army, it is here and now. Christ our King has conquered Sin. If the Church is going to fulfill her charge she must be constantly progressing, diligently purifying herself, and above all, she must be a powerful voice in society. How then, is the Church to change her path?

Our Saviour gave us a powerful tool that will keep our Churches strong. He also gives us a promise that if we do use this tool as He instructs that the Lord will personally honor this by causing our ranks to grow in size and more importantly stature. This tool is church discipline.

Notes

Throughout History we can see that the rise and fall of depravity is directly proportional with the rise and fall of the scriptural state of the church. This is so because the Church Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, not the individual. Paul tells us a little leavening will destroy the whole lump and we all know a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

We are all responsible the the general welfare of our numbers. If one weeps, we all weep, if one rejoices, we all rejoice. To obey this is love for our brothers, to disobey is hatred.

Application

Ask yourself these questions as you listen;

- Am I an active member in my congregation? Or am I autonomous observer?
- What am I doing to grow myself up? Am I doing the same for others?
- Is my church actively pushing me to grow?

Scripture References

Matthew 18:1-35 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (2) And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, (3) and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. (4) "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (5) "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; (6) but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (7) "Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes! (8) "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. (9) "If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell. (10) "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. (11) ["For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.] (12) "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? (13) "If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. (14) "So it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish. (15) "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. (16) "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.** (17) "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (18) "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. (19) "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. (20) "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." (21) Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" (22) Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. (23) "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. (24) "When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. (25) "But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. (26) "So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' (27) "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. (28) "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' (29) "So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' (30) "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. (31) "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. (32) "Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. (33) 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' (34) "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. (35) "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Ephesians 4:11-14 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and

some *as* pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

1 Corinthians 5:1-6 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. (2) You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. (3) For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. (4) In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, (5) *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (6) Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough?*

Proverbs 3:1-4 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; (2) For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you. (3) Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. (4) So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.