

# *The Church In The Mind Of God*

*Isaiah 2:2-3*

## A. Introduction

1. Many different ideas about the church.
  - a. Many differing purposes, goals, and methods
  - b. Leaders have been called “visionaries” for their radical changes in the nature of the church
2. Some even think God never originally intended for the church to exist! < chart >
3. Proposal: Let us study the church as it exists in the mind of God.

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## B. Discussion

### 1. The church is the eternal purpose of God (Ep. 3:8-11).

- a. Doctrine of Premillennialism doesn't think so!
- b. Consider the statements of the prophets:
  - 1) **Daniel 2:44** – Kingdom that cannot be moved
  - 2) **Daniel 7:13-14** – Kingdom of all nations
  - 3) **Isaiah 2:2-3** – House of God (cf. 1 Ti 3:15)
  - 4) **Joel 2:28-32** – Prophecy fulfilled & quoted by Peter in Acts 2
  - 5) **Matthew 3:1-2** – John the baptizer says, “Kingdom at hand!”
  - 6) **Mark 9:1** – Jesus said kingdom was imminent
  - 7) **Matthew 16:18** – Jesus built His church

c. **Ephesians 3:8-11** declares the church to be part of God's ETERNAL plan! < slide >

### 2. The church is the gathering of the saved (Acts 2:47).

- a. (**Acts 2:41**) Baptism added them to what? (v. 38) Number of those whose sins were remitted.
- b. (**Ep. 1:3**) All spiritual blessings in Christ.
- c. (**Ep. 2:16**) Reconciled unto God in Christ's body.
- d. (**1 Co. 12:13**) Baptized into the body.
- e. (**Ga. 3:27**) Baptism puts us “into Christ.”
- f. Thus, in baptism God simultaneously saves & adds one to the church.
- g. Therefore, there are no saved outside of Christ's church! < slide >

### 3. The church is singular in the mind of God (Ep. 1:22-23; 4:1-4).

- a. (**Ep. 1:22-23**) The church of Christ is the body of Christ.
- b. (**Ep. 4:1-4**) So, one body = one church... < slide > “maintain the unity of the Spirit...”
- c. Division does not bring God glory! < slide > (see point #2)
- d. (**1 Co. 1:10-13**) No divisions, same mind, same judgment, “Is Christ Divided?”
- e. Am I contributing to or hindering the unity of God's church?
  - 1) The present state of affairs encourages “cordial division.”
    - a) One denomination to another – “We're really the same & united.”
    - b) If one was of the “same mind” as another, they would not be separated by denominational name & creed.
  - 2) Division is division! < slide >

### 4. The church exists for the glory of God (Ep. 3:21).

- a. The church is the exclusive institution for this purpose!
  - 1) Body of Christ (Col. 1:18, 24)
  - 2) Christ is Savior of that body (Ep. 5:23)
  - 3) He purchased with own precious blood (Acts 20:28)
- b. He is worthy of all glory & honor because of His creative & redemptive work.
- c. If the church does not give Him glory, who will?

## C. Conclusion

1. Remember...there are no saved outside of the church that belongs to Christ.
2. He laid down His life for His bride, the church...the eternal purpose in the mind of God!