



Mighty in the Word

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

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They Went to Beth-El

In our small world today, people think of going to a building on Sunday morning to gather with other people. Today, the object *seems* to be to get people to go to church with all the offerings of some band, drums, videos, nice words to tell you how goodly you are. The usage of bibles written in the language of people today, vernacular, jargon, lingo – and on it goes, and all for making people feel they have already arrived and just need to come to socialize. I heard on occasion a statement of – uh – something about a man who died on a stick?

Then there is the concept of having worship with up to date computer designs. Don't bring your bible, we have monitors for you to watch and to follow with words and pictures for your entertainment – uh – I mean worship. If you are kept busy with reading the screens, watching the movies, you will not feel any conviction of sin in your lives because the Word will not go forth, and we will tell you how goodly you are.

You will leave waiting for the next Sunday to return to get more of what is offered at these "buildings." You will want to invite others as you experience what is offered for you. Bands, up-to-date choruses that make you feel good about yourself. There is one modern chorus that is about your sins are dissolved. You feel like "no big deal," if they are dissolved. People see Jesus as one of themselves, not as the Messiah, not as the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel). People of all *places* understand that everyone has a Jesus, so everyone understands *we all believe alike, and this Jesus understands*. People go to enjoy singing modern songs they understand and have a good old time singing.

If one's sins are dissolved, what is this – uh – story about that mentions someone who died on a stick and then, some say we have to repent, and – huh?

Awaken! The Wisemen read from the prophets of old about one who was coming, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Oh, the joy of knowing about a Savior. They understood the profundity of the coming of the Lord, the efficacy of His coming; they understood the great need they had in their own lives for a Savior – and yet, I believe none of us can grasp the great divide - that the coming of the Savior brought to a sinful, evil world who has rejected Him, the Lord and Savior, Jesus

of Christ. The body has many parts as does the human body, and each member must be working together for the body of Christ to function. And, yes, there must be unity in the body, each working as the Lord calls, and, yet, as each is working the body is not broken parts, but seen as one body flowing together. Read I Corinthians 12 and pray, seeking the Lord's will in your life.

The Wisemen knew their call was to go to Beth-El and worship the King of kings and Lord of lords, and, yet, they worshipped on their way as they did on their return home – no doubt.

The Church is a way of life. Beth-El is the body of Christ flowing together seeking more and more of Jesus in each of our lives daily and, yet, as the body of Christ moving together.

The word *Church* is literally *the people called out*. It is the people of God in Christ Jesus called out from the world, a people coming together in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Beth-El!

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Christ. I believe the hearts of the Wisemen cried out for the Lord as they journeyed from afar to reach the Christ child, and lay their lives before Him to be used in service unto the Lord God – as I believe there are those yet today who cry out for the Lord Jesus Christ and desire to serve Him to a greater measure day by day.

The beauty of such an experience of those of great wealth seeking to see and experience the Christ child, some would say, lies in the Wisemen being wealthy, well educated – and, yet, being led to the King of kings who was perceived to be of low estate. The Wisemen understood what wealth was; it was not in the financial realm or the "right" family heritage; it lay in who one is in Jesus Christ, the King of kings. That is the family name that brings life, that is life giving.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [*is*], but exhorting [*one another*]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching .

Notice Hebrews 10.25 above does not say forsaking not the coming together on a Sunday morning in a building. The above scripture is about the true body of Christ coming together as they did in the Book of Acts, Chapter Two, praying together, reading the Bible together, breaking bread together – that they might be strengthened in the Lord to go forth witnessing, preaching: teaching the Holy Bible as the Lord Jesus Christ directs.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1.8).

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [*unto them*] about three thousand souls.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all [*men*], as every man had need (Acts 2.41-45).

We read of those in Acts and Romans who had, what we know as house church, people who went to someone's house to worship the Lord together with them. We read in Romans 16.5 of the church that was in the house of Prisca and Aquila. Acts 18.26 reveals that Apollos was received into their family to instruct him more perfectly – perhaps considered as one of the flock that met in their house. We read the following in I Corinthians 16.19.

The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

And to [*our*] beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house: (Phm 1.2)

There is a church in the house of Philemon and many others which are not recorded – and all through history, even today. We are talking about the true Church, Christ's Holy Church where the true believers in Jesus Christ meet to exalt

the Name of Jesus, where at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

It is not the *square* building that is the church. It is the people of God in Christ Jesus that is the Church. In the days of the Primitive Church (New Testament times) there were no buildings erected specified as a church building. The people understood the Church was/is the people of God in Christ Jesus.

Remember in Acts 7.38, Luke writes of the Church in the Wilderness, the movable Tabernacle that *followed* the people wherever the Lord led them – not the people following the Tabernacle. Always The Biblical Church is the people, not the edifice. For some years money has gone to build bigger and better buildings that will one day fall as did the Tower of Babel, but the true Church shall stand for all eternity with the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Christ.

Know that the persecuted Church and the underground Church meets wherever they can – whether in a building or in the open areas such as forest even though some are in places of extreme weather. They come together in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, the Magi traveled through harsh circumstances coming from Arabia as some have written. But they were the Church on the move, with a purpose, with determination to experience the One that is the head of the Church. They understood that Beth-El is the house of God. They understood that where two or three are gathered together in the Name of Jesus Christ, there is He in their midst.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Mt 18.20).

The Church is not stationary. The Church of God in Christ Jesus is on the move. There is a song from years ago that calls the Church to move on with the Lord Jesus Christ, to move upward in their service unto Him with their daily lives.

The move is on, my Lord, the move is on.

The move is on, my Lord, the move is on.

For I hear the going in the mulberry trees,

And, I know, I know the move is on.

Move on, brother. Move on sister.

This is the moving day.

Move a little closer where the streams are flowing.

Move on, brother, move on.

Author Unknown

David understood he was not to move until the going in the mulberry trees as the Lord God directed him. The Wisemen knew they were to return another way under the Lord's direction. Paul knew he was not to go to the places he thought he was to go, but was to go to Macedonia under the Lord's direction. This is the Church moving by the Spirit of God. And, yes, there is more. The Church is not directed by those who believe they are directing traffic and never ever preach that the body of Christ, that wherever you are working in your daily life for remuneration to provide for family is where you are to minister as part of the body