



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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What a **GLORIOUS** Church Looks Like

This series was preached between Sunday Morning, June 22 and August 3rd, 2025

A couple weeks ago, we started talking about the fact that Jesus is coming SOON! I think we can get SO busy with life...so busy with the here and now, that we forget about this fact...this PROMISE.

Jesus is coming soon.

1 Thessalonians 5:1,2

- 1 But of the times and the seasons (**AMP:** precise seasons and dates), brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
- 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Paul KNEW Jesus was coming SOON. There would be a rapture of the church.

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

- 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
- 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:52 – “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

Paul DESCRIBES His return as a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10, also).

A couple things about a thief:

- a.) No one knows, but the thief when he is going to strike (Mark 13:32).

- b.) The thief comes to get what HE WANTS and leaves.
BELOVED: We ARE what this thief wants. We are it!
He is coming to get us...and going home!

1 Thessalonians 5:4 – “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.”

UNDERSTAND: That day will not overtake us as a thief. We will be ready for Him to come.

Ready to go home with Him.

Knowing the signs.

Why? Because we are children of LIGHT...not of darkness. Jesus reveals things to us.

AGAIN: We are what He is coming for! Rejoice!

BELOVED: We are living in these times. As crazy as the Middle East has always been...it is perhaps at its craziest right now.

The way people are...more in tune with the end times.

Signs of the times are all over.

BELOVED: Don't be stressed...be ready!

NOW: The reason of these messages have not been to talk about what is going to happen AFTER the rapture (though we have touched on it)...but to find out what is going to happen before and at the time of the rapture for us.

2 Timothy 3:1 tells us PERILOUS TIMES WILL COME. Amplified expounds that it will be GREAT STRESS, HARD TO DEAL WITH, and HARD TO BEAR.

YOU SAY: Well, Pastor Thad, that makes me nervous.

BELOVED: That is the way it is going to be in the world...with the world's system...NOT for the church...not for HIS KINGDOM.

Way too many people want to believe that these END TIMES are NOT going to be good for the church.

- * That the church will be haggard and worn, barely getting by...if it wasn't for the rapture the church would cease to exist.
- * That the glorious church will take place on our way to heaven...on our way up. We may not look like much NOT, but as we float we will finally have it good.

IMPORTANT: When we get to heaven...it will be like NOTHING we have ever experienced on this earth...without doubt, but as we saw a couple weeks ago, this end time church is suppose to be the BEST and GREATEST it has ever been.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

QUESTION: Why is this added to the next verses?

ANSWER: Because we are the BRIDE of Christ.

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

REMEMBER: The preparation of the BRIDE for the GROOM (King). It was not financed by the BRIDE, but by the GROOM.

27 That ***he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.***

"Glorious" – splendid, splendor, gorgeous

NOTICE: What is missing in this definition (worn and ratty).

O.T. "Glorious" – to be weighted down with all that is good, specifically copiousness (wealth).

OH BELOVED: Jesus is coming back for the CHURCH in its finest hour. In its most beautiful hour.

Not just hanging on, but thriving.

Ephesians 3:20-21

20 ***Now unto him*** that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 ***Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus*** throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

BELOVED: The glory that is in the church...and His glory is the CHURCH (talk about a bride on her wedding day)...is unto HIM.

UNDERSTAND: Everything that we are is unto Him. Everything that He is working in us and working for us is UNTO HIM. Our wealth is unto Him. Our health is unto Him. The power we walk in...authority we walk in is unto Him.

Not unto us...not for us to be beautiful for us and us alone, but for us to be PRESENTED TO HIM...glorious...holy...without blemish.

UNDERSTAND: HIS GLORY is in the church...it is in His bride.

Just like when I enjoy having Jessica on my arm...she makes me look good. She is my glory.

A LOOK BACK: The last time we were on this area we simply looked at scripture after scripture to see that the church will shine...we will shine.

Hide it under a bushel basket? NOPE! Let it shine!

The heathen will notice and be drawn to it

Isaiah 60:1-5 (the best place to see this)

TODAY: (and what we've been looking at recently) I want us to take a little more of a look at the GLORIOUS church...what we will look like.

What Does a Glorious Church Look Like?

FIRST: The very definition of GLORIOUS means HEAVILY weighted down with all that is good...specifically copiousness. Wealth.

BELOVED: I know this makes a lot of people nervous...there have been so many men and women of God who have abused this teaching (send money to me and you will be healed, etc.)...but it is a real thing.

I was watching something the other day that brought up a law regarding kings in Israel (Deuteronomy 17:16,17) that says the kings are not to greatly multiply silver and gold and supplies.

Their focus was obviously on the fact that if you had a lot of money you were not good.

INTERESTING: As I studied that out, the literal understanding of this is that the KINGS were NOT to become rich off of taxation. Getting rich off the backs of the Israelites.

They could actually be as rich as they wanted (Solomon, David, etc.) but it could not come off of fleecing their flocks...making them give, more and more.

Wealth has ALWAYS been God's way for His kids...ALWAYS.
But the wealthiest time will be at the end. Right now.

INSERT: This should not be an, "oh-cool-I-am-gonna-be-rich-so-I-will-just-wait" moment...it should be an encouragement to do what He says to do.

Joel 2:23-32

A couple things of this passage:

- * Prophetic to Joel's day...his time.
- * Dual message to the last days.
- * Acts 2:16 – "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel."
It gives us a rundown of the end times...especially the rising up of the church. The use of ZION means it is talking about the church.

23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

"former rain moderately" – teachers of righteousness

UNDERSTAND: We must know who we are (through the Word) so we can be the Bride He desires.

SECONDLY: The GLORIOUS church will know who they are in Christ. They will know their righteousness. The church as, for too long, understood what a wretch they were...but now who they are now.

"the former rain and latter rain" – two ways to look at this...

- a.) Some say the former rain is the Old Testament and the latter rain is the New Testament. Everything God did in the O.T. and the N.T. will be poured out at the end of times.
- b.) This is a term regarding HARVEST.
In Israel, when they planted the seed they HAD to have rain. Former rain! It was essential to the seed germinating.
Just before the harvest of the crop (picking of the grain) they had to have a great rain that would make sure the fruit would grow on the stalks.

UNDERSTAND: It could rain during the growing seasons...but the former and latter were the keys.

In ACTS God planted the seeds of the church.

TODAY, is the time JUST before He plucks us up from the earth, thus it is time for the latter rain.

Which means it is time for the GREATEST harvest...GREATEST move of God of all times. There have been RAINS here and there, but there is ONE that we are moving into that will be the GREATEST ever.

- 24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.
MANY WILL POINT out that this has to do with spiritual stuff...and though it could be presented that way...THIS IS TALKING ABOUT WEALTH.
 Prosperity in the church. Overflow. Increase. Harvest.
 It is talking about everything you've sown...to come to you...good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

This is talking about your storehouse being full. Savings and banks accounts.

- 25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

UNDERSTAND: Everything that the enemy has stolen from you, will be returned. Everything!

Years? Time? God will redeem your time.

Years? Fruit of the years? Return stuff.

"My great army" – that made me think of God sending bad things. (?)

What I saw is that there are spiritual laws that God has set in place...laws regarding living by your flesh...laws about sin and death...laws about obedience...laws that lead to wards destruction.

HOWEVER: In the end times...when people are turned to God...those things/years will be returned.

How many of us would have had things different in our lives if the enemy didn't have his hand in it? Sin robbed you. Selfishness robbed you. What you did or didn't do robbed you.

Acts 3:21 – "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

- 26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

NOTICE: *Four things that will come to us...*

- a.) We will eat in plenty. Have all you want.
Does not sound like poverty. We will eat and enjoy more than enough.
- b.) We will be satisfied.
This does not have to do with eating...but life.
You will be satisfied with life...house, car, family, etc.
UNDERSTAND: You can't pig out and be satisfied...satisfied comes long before you are full.
- c.) We will praise God.
THIRDLY: The glorious church WILL be a church of praise. Not just music, but identifying the glory and beauty of Yahweh.
BELOVED: I will say that the end times will have increased praise.
We currently have a worship song on the Billboard top 100...has been there for 17 weeks.
Praise songs on American Idol.
Arenas full of people just worshipping.
YOU SAY: "Well, I don't think I like all that stuff."
ANSWER: Who cares, we are not praising you!

d.) We will never be ashamed.

BELOVED: I will tell you...the removal of shame is essential before you can move into the NEW.

Joshua 5:9 – Before they moved into the promised land...the shame of Egypt (world) had to be removed.

The world shames us because they don't understand us.

Don't expect them to understand us.

They shame the move of the spirit...they shame the Word...they shame the buildings...etc.

BELOVED: This type of shame is all over the internet, reels, etc.

They argue anything and everything.

Guard yourself...because if all you are listening to (and we can catch ourselves in threads for HOURS) is shame...it will be near impossible to break out of shame. Spend more time in the Word.

27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

The simplicity of this verse? Where God is...stuff happens. Miracles!

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

After that stuff happens? Which includes wealth.

FOURTH: The power of God will move in the GLORIOUS church. Spirit of God will move. This is NOT a MAN MADE manufactured/manipulated move of God...God will show up.

2 Timothy 3:5 – “Having a form of godliness, but **denying the power** thereof: from such turn away.”

NOTE: We know this is talking about the last days (vs. 1)...there will be many who will like church and stuff, but will deny the power.

BELOVED: The end times will be MARKED by power. Therefore, it will be common to have the religious voice that goes against POWER.

Acts 1:8 – “**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.”

REMEMBER: Jesus walked in POWER...after the Holy Ghost came upon Him.

It will be the same for us.

The Holy Spirit is our power...when He comes upon us (overflowing) with His gift (speaking in tongues), we will enjoy that power.

Acts 2 – That is the way it was in the early church.

1 Corinthians 12 – If you desire the gifts of the spirit (power of the Spirit), then you need the Holy Spirit...His gift.

2 Timothy 1:7 – “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear (timidity or cowardice), but of POWER, and of love and of a sound mind (discipline).”

UNDERSTAND: God calls us to do crazy things for Him...witnessing...giving...tithing...walking by faith, etc.

Often we don't do those things because it is too much of a risk...therefore, we don't do them because of timidity or cowardice.

God is saying...that timidity did NOT come from Him. He wants you to do those things because you have the POWER...you have the LOVE...and you can discipline yourself (control your self).

Quit letting the enemy tell you that you can't do stuff...you have power!

1 Thessalonians 1:5 – “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.”

They didn't just speak it...they showed them the power.

Ephesians 6:10 (talking about the armor of God) – “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might...”

Ephesians 3:20 – “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, ***according to the power that worketh in us,***”

UNDERSTAND: A glorious church WILL BE A church of POWER!

THEREFORE: Prosperity is not an option. The Word of God has to be preached...people have to be reached...a harvest must come forth...it will take money for that to happen.

NOTE: And then comes the tribulation...after Jesus' return.

- 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.
 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.
 32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

UNDERSTAND: Jesus is coming soon...before His return there will be an increase of wealth in the Body of Christ.

Proverbs 13:22 – “A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the ***wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.***”

NOTE: This has been the way it was ALL throughout Scripture.

It won't be any different...as a matter of fact it will be more so...at the end of times.

Ecclesiastes 2:26 – “For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: ***but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God.*** This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.”

1 Kings 17 – Where did the ravens get the food?

OBVIOUSLY, there could have been food from nature...but it literally says BREAD (ravens don't cook) and meat (possibly cooked already).

They brought prepared meals...who prepared them?

Someone prepared them...AND LOST IT!

James 5:1-7

1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

NOTE: vs. 4 tells us this isn't just people with money...but those whose trust is in money and are crooked (1 Timothy 6:17).

YOU SAY: Yup, those rich people with their boats...with their big houses...with their Bentley's and fast cars...they can't be trusting in money.

BELOVED: Anyone who prioritizes their money over God's money is trusting in riches.

2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. ***Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.***

QUESTION: Why did he put it in the hands of the world until the end? Why not the church and get it over with?

* The church has rejected wealth for centuries.

* The church has been irresponsible with money.

* He couldn't trust the church with money (less than 17% tithe).

- 4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.
- If you hire...be good to them.
- 5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.
- 6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.
- 7 ***Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.*** Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, ***until he receive the early and latter rain.***

Finally, Psalm 105:37 – “He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.”

Israel leaving Egypt is a picture of the church leaving the world (rapture).

They spoiled Egypt (the world).

We have looked, in the past, at the wealth in the tabernacle...it all came from a bunch of ex-slaves who had wealth handed over to them before they left Egypt.

PERIODICALLY through history Egypt will try to get Israel to pay them reparations from that time.

UNDERSTAND: The children of Israel came and demanded stuff...they gave stuff.

In the end of times, it will be the demands of the **RIGHTEOUS** that will come into power and make rules.

NOTE: No wonder vs. 38 it says they were glad when they left.

Do you think the heathen will be glad when they find out there are no more Christians to hand over their stuff to?

ONE MORE THING: No feeble ones among them (2 to 3 million slaves all healthy and strong).

BELOVED: Along with wealth, praise, and power will come healing and health...it is time.

FIFTH: The glorious church will be a healthy and physically strong church.

Don't Forget Holy

BELOVED: I have been focused on the fact that Ephesians tells us that Jesus is preparing a **GLORIOUS CHURCH** for Himself.

He could have said a **HOLY** church...but the emphasis and **TITLE** is on **GLORIOUS**.

HOWEVER: In the fact that it is a **GLORIOUS** church...it **MUST** be holy and without blemish. Clean...no spots...stains...ugliness.

SIXTH: A glorious church will be a **HOLY** church.

YOU CANNOT totally be a glorious church where sin is present.

ILLUSTRATION: Most people know about the New York Yankees...a baseball team, sometimes a good baseball team. Of course, I don't like them, but that is not the issue. Who are they? Yankees! Bronx Bombers! A baseball team.

One thing most people may not know is that they don't allow their players to have any facial hair (no mustaches or beards). Weird? Ya! But it is not necessarily in their title...they are not the New York No Beards...but Yankees. But the thing that comes with being a Yankee? No Beards...no mustaches. If you decide your beard or mustache is more important...you are no longer a Yankee.

BELOVED: We are a glorious church. That is who we are and what we should be known for...but along with being a glorious church...we **MUST** be holy.

If you decide your flesh is more important than being a **GLORIOUS** church...you cannot be a glorious church.

“Holy” – to be set apart – clean, pure,
NOT rules and regulations...but SIMPLY I am my beloveds and he is mine (Song of Solomon 6:3).
Everything we do is about our BELOVEDS.

ILLUSTRATION of a married couple. Does my “beloved” like this or that...would they be comfortable with me doing this or that.

2 Peter 1:19-21

19 **We have also a more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

MORE SURE WORD: His Word! What he said! What He prophesied.

It is more than the fables...more than any other Word.

NOTE: This is also bringing up the prophetic words of the Old Testament...because of verse 20.

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

NOTE #1: We use this verse to realize that every Word is deeper than just what we have revelation of...and it does mean that.

NOTE #2: Every prophecy is NOT made up by just a man by himself...but by the Holy Spirit. So they all flow together.

THEREFORE: Peter and the disciples are NOT making this stuff up. He is coming again! It has been prophesied in the Old Testament and confirmed by His Majesty (vs. 16).

2 Peter 2:1-4; 9-15

1 But there **were false prophets also among the people**, even as there **shall be false teachers among you**, who privily shall **bring in damnable heresies**, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

NOTE: We have limited this stuff to CULTS or OCCULTS...but it is more than that!

~ Those who don't know, but teach their doctrine.

~ Those who know but teach what they want.

~ Those who know but teach what the people want.

2 And many shall follow their **pernicious ways** (indecent behavior); by reason of **whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of**.

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

4 For if **God spared not the angels that sinned**, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

9 The **Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations**, and to **reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished**:

UNDERSTAND: There is a day the unjust will be punished. Make no mistake!

10 But **chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness**, and **despise government** (authority). **Presumptuous** are they, **selfwilled**, they are **not afraid to speak evil of dignities**.

11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

NOTICE: We do NOT have any right to bring judgement against God's people...the ANGELS don't even accuse them before the Lord.

12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, **speak evil of the things that they understand not**; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

14 **Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls**: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

- 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, ***following the way of Balaam*** the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;
NOTE: They do what they do for money and nothing else...just like Balaam.

BELOVED: The glorious church will be a HOLY church!

Holiness is NOT about rules and regulations...do's and don'ts...it is about being IN HIM, living FOR HIM. What makes Him happy! ***Being set apart for Him and only Him.***

1 Peter 1:14-16

- 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,
15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;
16 because it is written: "***YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.***"

NOTE: You will never get to the point that GOD MAKES you be holy...you must be holy! It is you yielding to Him...His desires.

ILLUSTRATION: Same as a husband who tries to make his wife submit...not gonna happen.

Hebrews 12:14 – "Follow peace with all men, ***and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.***"

Conclusion

REMEMBER: We are His bride...He is preparing us for Himself...

He will NOT do it by making sure we are beat up, worn out, and hung up to dry.

But by sanctifying us through HIS WORD...making us a sweet smelling bride...by adorning us with good things...by strengthening and empowering us.

So, what will the end time church look like?

- 1.) Wealth (generosity).
- 2.) Understanding Righteousness
- 3.) Praise
- 4.) Power
- 5.) Health
- 6.) Holiness