

The Matchless House of the Lord

By Steve Boyce

Matchless - *having no equal; peerless; unequaled; incomparable: so outstandingly great as to have no rival.*

1. Seeing the House of the Lord the way the Lord sees it.

Is. 2:2 - In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Is. 2:3 - Many people will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Also see (Mic 4).

Jacob said: *"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." (Gen. 28:17)*

David said, It is to be *"a place of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations." (1 Chr 22:5)*

- A. How we think about the Church must align with how God thinks.
- B. Our faith, our strategies, our communication, our ability to lead cannot be built upon a lesser (false) concept of the church.
- C. How you think impacts what you do and how you do it.
- D. What is your system of thinking concerning the church?

2. Realigning our thinking with truth.

- A. The Church has the greatest release of creativity, the highest thoughts and the deepest expressions of the heart.

Ps. 118:26 - Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.

- B. The Church is the greatest force of power and authority in the heavens and on earth.

2 Cor. 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

- C. The Church is the highest expression of God's creation in all the earth and throughout all of history.

Eph. 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." Eph. 5:32 "This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church".

D. The Church's glory is more glorious than man imagines.

1 Cor. 13:12 - Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

3. Our view of the Church is a great asset or great detriment.

Prov. 4:23 - Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do. (NLT)

A. Our thinking can reduce the effectiveness of the church.

1. Be careful of what you see.
2. Be careful of what you hear.
3. Be careful of what you read.

B. Our thinking should reflect the vital need for the Church.

John 4:35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

4. The Church is God's provision on earth for all people - Jacob said "This Place".

Ps. 68:5 - A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

Gen. 18:18 - Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

A. It is a place of Truth – the Word of God is taught there.

1Tim. 3:15 - If I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1. Teaching – Bringing Wisdom.
2. Prophecy – Bringing Deliverance.
3. Counsel – Bringing Direction.

B. It is a place of Protection – The Government of God is there.

Matt. 16:18 - And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

1. Oversight of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, Elders, Deacons, spiritual mothers and fathers...

2. Accountability one to another - families raising families.

C. It is a place of Healing – Jesus in the midst.

John 5:2 - Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. **John 5:3** Here a great number of disabled people used to lie - the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

D. It is a place of Prosperity – a place of abundance.

1. Where ordinary people are promoted to royalty.

Ps. 65:4 - Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

Ps. 46:4 - There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

Ps. 46:5 - God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Ps. 92:12, 13 - The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

Deut. 12:7 There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you.

E. It is a place of Heritage -- Something you are grafted into.

John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Eph. 2:19 - Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, **Eph. 2:20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Heb. 11:32 - And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets **Heb. 11:33** - who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, **Heb. 11:34** - quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

F. It is a place of Worship -- A tabernacle of praise.

Ps. 42:4 - These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.

Ps. 109:30 - With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD; in the great throng I will praise him.

Ex. 23:19 - "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God.

G. It is a place of Prayer - A dialoguing with God.

Is. 56:7 - "... for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Ps. 18:6 - In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.

Matt. 18:20 - For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

H. It is a place of maturity - strengthened through hardships.

Jer. 12:5 - "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?"

James 1:2 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, James 1:3 - because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:4 - Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

John 2:17 - His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

1. The Church (a fledgling Judaic sect not yet called Christians) is planted, in seed form, into the boiling caldron of what might be described as the worst place on earth to plant any church.
 - Social unrest
 - Political pressure
 - Religious Stronghold
2. You are born for adversity. It doesn't stop you, it may not even slow you down.

Your faith is contagious. What you really believe about the Church will be the foundation upon which your ministry will build.

Ps. 26:8 - I love the house where you live, O LORD, the place where your glory dwells.

Ps. 27:4 - *One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*