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**“TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE” MINISTRIES**

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**C. MATURITY - CITY CHURCH & ELDERSHIP - May 26, 2011**

**1. MATTHEW 16:18 (16:13-20) THE CHURCH: BELONGS TO JESUS.**

f. 16:18 JESUS REVEALS THE FOUNDATION AND TRIUMPH OF HIS CHURCH

**And I also say unto you, that you are Peter,**

ka' 'GQ DE soi LEgo, HOti su ei PEtros [4074],

**and upon this :rock I will build my :church**

kai ePI TAUte te PEtra [4073] oi-ko-doMEso [3618] mou ten ek-kleSlan [1577]

**and *the* gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

kai PUIai [4439] HAdou [86] ou ka-tiSCHUsou-sin [2729] auTES.

g. 16:19 THE AUTHORITY JESUS DELEGATES TO PETER AND DISCIPLES

**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens; and whatever you shall bind on the earth**

DQsoi tas KLEidas [2807] tes ba-siLEIas [932] ton ou-raNON; kai ho eAN DEses [1210] ePI tes ges

**shall be bound in the heavens; and whatever you shall loose**

EStai de-deMEnon en tois ou-raNOIS; kai ho eAN LUses [3089]

**on the earth shall be loosed in the heavens.**

ePI tes ges EStai le-luMEnon en tois ou-raNOIS.

Here we see the first of 114 references to the word “church”. Again, the rules of pedagogy cause us to consider carefully the insights from this first reference. The church was purchased by Christ by His blood. Therefore we belong to Him! And the “counsels” of hell will not prevail against Christ's Church! **Hallowed be your :name.**

## **2. MATTHEW 18:15-17 THE CHURCH: SOLVES INTERPERSONAL PROBLEMS.**

4. 18:15-17 THREE STAGES IN RESTORING A BROTHER

a. 18:15 HOW TO GAIN A SINNER: SEEK TO WIN HIM ALONE

**And if your :brother sin, go,**

E-AN de ha-marTEse ho a-delPHOS sou, HUpa-ge,

**reprove him between you and him alone:**

Eleg-xon auTON me-taXU sou kai auTOU MONou:

**if he hear you, you have gained your :brother.**

eAN sou aKOUse, eKERde-sas [2770] ton a-delPHON sou.

b. 18:16 ONLY BRING OTHERS IN IF FIRST STEP FAILS.

**But if he hear not, take with you one or two more,**

eAN de me aKOUse, paRALa-be [3880] meTA sou Eti HEna e DUo,

**that at the mouth of two witnesses or three every word stand.**

HIna ePI STOMa-tos DUo marTUron [3144] e triON staTHE pan 'REma [4487].

c. 18:17 ONLY TAKE DRASTIC THIRD STEP IF FIRST TWO FAIL

**And if he refuse to hear them, tell the church: and if he refuse to hear the church also,**

eAN de pa-raKOUse [3878] auTON, eiPON te ek-kleSla: eAN de kai tes ek-kleSlas pa-raKOUse,

**let him be to you as the Gentile and the publican.**

ESto soi HOSper ho eth-niKOS [1482] kai ho teLQnes [5057].

This is the second reference to church. Here is a 4-fold manner in which to solve interpersonal problems - and according to Jesus - this is the only way for NT observant believers to solve such problems! **Your :kingdom come.**

### **3. ACTS 13:1-3 THE CITY CHURCH: HAS AN ELDERSHIP IN ITS GATE.**

XV. 13:1-14:28 SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH EXTENSION

A. 13:1-3 THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MISSIONS

a. 13:1 PROPHETS AND TEACHERS AT ANTIOCH

**Now in the church that was at Antioch were prophets**

Esan de en An-ti-oCHEla kaTA ten OUsan ek-kleSlan proPHEtai [4396]

**and teachers, both :Barnabas and Symeon :called Niger,**

kai diDaska-loi [1320], ho te BarNAbas kai Su-meON ho kaLOUme-nos NIger,

**and Lucius of Cyrene,** kai LOUki-os ho Ku-reNALos,

**and Manaen foster-brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.**

Ma-naEN te HeRQdou tou teTRAar-chou SUNtro-phos, kai SAUlos.

b. 13:2 WORSHIP AND FASTING RELEASES THE HOLY SPIRIT

**And as they ministered to the Lord, and fasted,**

lei-tourGOUNton [3008] de auTON to KuRlo, kai ne-steuONton [3522],

**the Holy :Spirit said, Separate me then :Barnabas and Saul**

Elpen to PNEUma to HAgi-on, A-phoRIsa-te [873] de moi ton BarNAban kai SAUlon

**for the work unto which I have called them.**

eis to ERgon ho proSKEkle-mai [4341] auTOUS.

c. 13:3 MISSIONARY COMMISSIONING

**Then, having fasted** TOte, neSTEUsan-tes

**and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.**

kai pro-seuXame-noi [4336] kai e-piTHEntes tas CHEIras auTOIS, aPElu-san.

Each City Church in NT times had its Eldership in the Gate of its city, just as did Bethlehem in the OT. The 5-fold Eldership of prophets and teachers waited on God - had the Word of the Spirit - fasted - and obeyed the Word of the Spirit. **Your :will be done, As in heaven, so on earth.**

#### **4. ACTS 15:22-26 (15:1-35) THE CHURCH & ELDRSHIP: JOINT DECISION.**

2. 15:22-29 SCRIPTURAL ACTION FOLLOWING A DECISION

a. 15:22-26 DELEGATES SENT WITH THIS CONCLUSION

**Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church,**

TOte Edo-xe tois a-poSTOlois kai tois pres-buTErois, sun HOle te ek-kleSla,

**to choose men out from them,**

e-kle-xaMEnous ANdras ex auTON,

**and send them to Antioch with :Paul and Barnabas:**

PEMpsai eis An-tiOchei-an sun to PAUlo kai BarNAba:

**Judas :called Barsabbas, and Silas,**

IOUdan ton kaLOUme-non Bar-sabBAN, kai Silan,

**chief men among the brethren: 23 and they wrote by their hand,**

ANdras he-gouME nous {2233} en tois a-delPHOIS: GRAsan-tes [1125] diA cheiROS auTON,

**The apostles and the elder brethren to the brethren**

Hoi aPOsto-loi kai hoi presBUte-roi a-delPHOI tois

**who are of the nations in :Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greeting:**

kaTA ten An-tiOchei-an kai SuRlan kai Ki-liKlan a-delPHOIS tois ex ethNON, CHAlrein:

**24 Forasmuch as we have heard that certain from among us**

E-peide eKOUsa-men HOti tiNES ex heMON

**have troubled you with words, subverting your :souls;**

eTAra-xan [5015] huMAS LOGois, e-na-skeuAzon-tes [384] tas psuCHAS huMON;

**to whom we gave no commandment; 25 it seemed good to us, having come to one accord,**

hois ou di-e-steiLame-tha [1291]; Edo-xen heMIN, ge-noME nois ho-mo-thu-maDON [3661],

**to choose out men** e-kle-xaME nois ANdras

**and send them unto you with our :beloved Barnabas and Paul,**

PEMpsai pros huMAS sun tois a-ga-peTOIS heMON BarNaba kai PAUlo,

**26 men that have hazarded their :lives**

anTHROpois pa-ra-de-doKOsi [3860] tas psuCHAS auTON

**for the name of our :Lord Jesus Christ.**

huPER tou oNOMA-tos tou KuRlou heMON IeSOU ChrisTOU.

Probably no greater controversy arose in the early church but that caused by the “Judaizers”. The Book of Galatians was written by the Spirit through Paul to address this

problem. How satisfactory was the 4-fold solution here! ***Our :daily :bread give us this day.***

**5. RUTH 4:1 (4:1-21) THE OT CITY ELDERSHIP.** “Now Boaz went up to the gate, and sat down there; and, behold, the near kinsman of whom Boaz spoke came by; unto whom he said, **Ho, you! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down**” (ASV '01). The cities of Israel from ancient times had an Eldership in the Gate of their cities, with many synagogues within. How important was their decision here. Boaz took precedence over the nearer kinsman. David and David's Greater Son Jesus - came from this decision! ***And forgive us our :debts, as we also have forgiven our :debtors.***

**6. REVELATION 2:7 (2:1-7) SEVEN CHURCHES: SPOKEN TO BY THE SPIRIT.**

**e. 2:7a Who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

Ho Echon ous, a-kouSAto [191] ti to PNEUma [4151] LEgei tais ek-kleSlais.

f. 2:7b PROMISE TO OVERCOMERS – PARTAKERS OF THE TREE OF LIFE

**To him that overcomes, to him will I give to eat of the tree of :life,**

To niKONti [3528], DOso auTO phaGEIN ek tou XUlou [3586] tes zo-ES [2222],

**which is in the Paradise of :God.**

ho es-tin en to pa-raDElso [3857] tou TheOU.

All city churches should be listening to the voice of the Spirit. Pastor Bob Birch of Canada thoroughly understood this. Overcomers in each city church emerge as individuals who hear (which implies obedience) the Word of the Spirit. ***And bring us not into temptation.***

**7. 1 CORINTHIANS 16:19 (16:19-24) THE CHURCH: CAN ALSO LOCALLY BE IN A HOME.**

B. 16:19-24 CLOSING GREETINGS

1. 16:19-20 SALUTATIONS AND GREETINGS

**a. 16:19a The churches of :Asia salute you.**

AsPAzon-tai [782] huMAS hai ek-klēSlai tes A-Slas.

**b. 16:19b Aquila and Prisca salute you much in *the* Lord, with the church in their house.**

asPAze-tai huMAS en KuRIō polLA A-KUlas kai PRISka, sun te kat' Oikon auTON ek-klēSla.

There are 14 local churches mentioned in the NT. Aquila and Priscilla led 3 of these in 3 city churches. The elder of each local church formed the plural city church Eldership as seen in Acts 15. ***But deliver us from the evil one!***

**NOTE:** The City Church with its Eldership in the Gate - is the Pedestal holding up God's Word: His Bible Numeric Outlined Interlinear Greek NT. In the 1967 Vision I saw the City Churches with their Eldership as being God's Pedestal to support His Word: specifically this Interlinear product! We are not to be under any false illusions on this. It is God's purpose that this unique Interlinear Greek NT for Laymen - hold pre-eminence over all other NT texts and translations. The Numeric Phenomenon marks it as being unique. It is not in the Aramaic text. It is not in the Hebrew translation of the NT. God for His own purposes and according to His own counsel, has determined to set it in this particular product. God's Numerics - not the Anglicans Westcott and Hort - established this text.

There is much confusion in this area, with many divergent theories and opinions. God is the final adjudicator! And we have His verdict through His Numeric phenomenon.

Back to the Church - God's Pedestal for His Word! It comes from the Greek word ek-klēSla, which appears 114 times in the NT. Once in Acts 7 it refers to Israel in the Wilderness; 3 times it refers to the secular city of Ephesus (Acts 19:21-41); 14 times it refers to a church in the home such as in 1 Corinthians 16:19; 15 times for the Universal Church: Jew and Gentile in the One New Man for all time; but - 81 times concerning the City Church! Revelation 2 and 3 contain 14 of these 81 references to the City Church.

It is important that we have God's perspective on these teachings. It matters little to us who is right or wrong - it only matters that our God's perspective is allowed to be predominant. Let God say what He wants to say - and let the Bible mean what it wants to mean. All of this will come out in the wash upon the return of Christ Jesus - our Lord of lords and King of kings.

Roland Allen from England, missionary to China and Africa, author of "Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?" and "The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church" - had these two books placed in my hands in 1949 by Harry Conn of Chicago, when I was attending Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. These two books and the exhortation of Mr. Conn started me in the direction that has led me to the above. Jim Watt

**SPECIAL: "I Have Never Forgotten You"** - Oscar winner Nicole Kedman narrates this fascinating Tribeca Film Festival selection for documentarian Richard Trank, who relays the remarkable story of architect turned Nazi hunter **Simon Wiesenthal**. After losing nearly 90 family members in the Holocaust and surviving a German deathcamp, Wiesenthal volunteered to help the American War Crimes Unit track down war criminals on the lam, and went on to find more than 1,000 of them. - **1 hr. 45 min. 2006**

My wife Marie and I received the above from Netflix, and found it one of the most outstanding documentaries on the Holocaust of all we have ever viewed. In it Frederick Forsyth tells how he worked with Wiesenthal in producing "The Odessa File". Also, Anthony Hopkins recounts the outstanding part Wiesenthal played in the production of Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List." Added also is Wiesenthal's key part in the production of "The Boys from Brazil". It is a pity that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran could not immerse himself in the truth of this - rather than the lies he walks in. J & M