

# His Body the Church

#0633

Study given by W.D. Frazee—December 7, 1957

Elder Frazee's opening text for this study is Matthew, Chapter 16, and beginning with the 13<sup>th</sup> verse. Follow along as Elder Frazee shares with us.

[Elder Frazee]:

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” Matthew 16:13-19.

In this scripture I direct your attention this morning to the expression of the Savior:

“...Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” Ibid., verse 18.

Christ has a church in this world and He speaks of it here as a ‘building’. I would like to study with you the work of the church this morning as a ‘building’, first of all. Then we shall note another symbol which inspiration uses.

“...I will build my church...” He’s speaking of a structure to last, for He says He is going to build it on the rock. Jesus is the Rock, of course:

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 3:11.

He is the Rock on which the church is built.

But now in a building, while a great rock may be used as the foundation or as the corner stone, it takes many different parts fitted together. And Peter himself, the one to whom these words were spoken, tells us in 1 Peter 2 the part that you and I fill in this building. 1 Peter, the second chapter, verses 4-5. Speaking of Jesus, first of all:

“To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” 1 Peter 2:4-5.

That phrase “lively stones” means living stones. Notice that the believers are addressed as living stones—not dead stones cut out from a mountain, but living characters.

But my dear friends, just as stones from the quarry must be chiseled and polished in order to fit together, so you and I must be hewed and squared for the building. There’s a work that must be done on us. We do not automatically fit together.

You know, there’s a great deal of misapprehension in many minds concerning the church. And of course, whenever people have misapprehensions, eventually they have disappointments. If we conceive of the church as a group of perfect people already fitted for heaven, we certainly shall be disappointed for the members of the church are far from that experience. The church, as we see it today, is made up of people who are in process of being fitted. In process of being fitted.

Suppose I come up to a place where a great building is going up. It may be a United States post office in one of the large cities, or it may be a cathedral, or it may be a treasury building or a museum—some great building built of marble or other stone. And I come up there and it’s in the process of being built. I see scaffolding up there. I see rocks of various shapes and sizes, stones. I hear the sound of chisel and hammer and other tools. And I say, “What is this?”

Somebody may answer me, “Why, this is the new post office.”

I say, “Well, it doesn’t look much like a post office to me.”

No, it may not, but that’s what it is in *process* of becoming as the stones are selected and fitted. And finally the day comes and the building is opened, and the purpose for which it was erected is carried out.

It takes a bit of time, doesn’t it? Quite a bit. I think of some of those great cathedrals in Europe that took actually hundreds of years to build. The men who planned them knew that they would be dead and gone long before the spire would be put up there. But year after year, decade after decade, the work went on.

Well, now my friends, that's the way the church is. And the church will never appear in all its beauty, in all its completed perfection, until the last stone is in place, the last stone. Each one of those stones must be fitted, perfected, polished, so that the *whole* building, when it is finally brought together, will be perfect. And how we will admire the wisdom of the *great* Architect, Jesus Christ!

Oh friends, I say it's a wonderful privilege to be even one little stone in that great building. Don't you think so? And how we should rejoice in the privilege of being hewed and squared for the building, shaped and fashioned and polished.

Go to Ephesians 2:19. Writing to these believers in Ephesus who had come out of the darkness of heathenism into the glorious light of the Christian church, Paul says:

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit”  
Ephesians 2:19-22.

This shows the purpose of this building, the church. It is for “an habitation of God.” You remember that in the ancient tabernacle the purpose was that God might dwell here on earth:

“And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them” Exodus 25:8.

In that tabernacle is represented the church of God. As the tabernacle was God's dwelling place, so the church is God's earthly abiding place.

Now, Paul says, “You who have accepted Jesus are being fitted together to make that temple. You're no more strangers and foreigners. You've been brought in to be members of the family of God”:

“And [you] are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord” Ephesians 2:20-21.

The phrase “in Whom” refers to Jesus. I want to stress this fact of our being *fitted* together. Whether it be stone or lumber, any material that's used in building, there must be a preparation. There must be a fitting together, a measuring. The carpenter says, “I need a board here six feet long for a certain place.” Well, he goes and there's

one seven or eight feet long. What's he going to do? Well, he's going to take the saw and cut it off.

Suppose the board could think, talk, feel. What would it say? "Oh, I don't want to be cut! I don't want to be cut!" And it might say things like I've heard some people say. "I guess they don't like me around here. I guess they don't like me—cutting at me, just cutting on me and cutting on me!" Well, why is the board cut? Because it's no good? Oh, no. Because, potentially, it's very *useful*. But to fit in that place it needs a bit of *cutting*.

Suppose the board should say, "No, sir! You're not going to cut me. You can take me as I am or not at all." Well, there might be a missing place in the building, mightn't there?

I want to say to you, my dear friends, there isn't a single person who comes to the church of Christ but what he needs some cutting. And you may just plan for it and expect it. It'd be a wonderful thing to thank God for it. But now, what does that mean in practical life? It means, dear friends, that there're some things about us that need to be changed. Now, that's the question: are we willing to be changed so that we can fit into God's great purpose and plan?

The amazing thing is, sometimes the things that need to be cut off are things that we think are wonderful, just wonderful. Our individual peculiarities, perhaps, that get in the way of other people, habits of selfishness or indulgence, habits of worldliness—whatever it is that is *out of line* with the pattern, there needs to be some cutting done. And the Spirit of God is seeking to fit us and fashion us and mold us so that we will fit together into an holy temple in the Lord.

Oh friends, isn't it better to be cut and fit into our niche than to remain whole, shall I say, and simply lie out here on the scrap pile, boasting of the fact that nobody ever changed us any? Isn't it? Yes. Let us gladly, willingly submit to the cutting, hewing, squaring, polishing process that we may fit together with joy into the temple of God, which is the church.

I'd like to take another symbol that Paul uses. It's mentioned here in this same epistle to the Ephesians. Let's take the first chapter of Ephesians, the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> verses. Ephesians 1:22-23. Here again the apostle is speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ. It says in the 22<sup>nd</sup> verse that God:

“...Hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all” Ephesians 1:22-23.

The church is not only, then, represented by a temple in which God dwells. Here in this more intimate relationship, the church is represented as being the body of which our Lord is the head.

Think of it, friends! The human body: Jesus is the head, the church is the body. That's as close a relationship as can be represented, isn't it? A very close relationship. And you know, we have never seen a living body without a head, and we have never seen a living head without a body. And thus Jesus would teach us that when you find His church in this world, you find *Him*. With His church He has covenanted to *be* always, even unto the end of the world. (See Matthew 28:18-20.)

There is then, according to the Scripture, a church in this world, *the* church of which Jesus is the head and through which He works. And when we find that church, we find the hands of Jesus extended in invitation, the feet of Jesus running His errands in this world. We find the body of Christ bearing the burdens of lost men and women. We find the agency through which the divine Head is communicating His message to the needy multitudes. Yes, the church is the body of Christ.

Now, we said a little while ago that the temple *grows*. We read that from the Bible. And so the *body* grows. A temple grows by the addition of stones, one after the other. The body grows in, shall I say, a more gradual way. In fact, as we watch a human being develop, we do not see the growth. We do not see a stone put in, and then another stone put in and another one. But we see the evidence of that development as from time to time we measure. Children love to measure and be measured. "I was so many inches tall. Now I'm up here."

How does the church grow? Well, it grows in two ways, friends. It grows by the addition of members. Each new member increases the growth and development of the church. We're happy for that, aren't we? But that isn't all, friends. Each member is to grow. That's where being *living* cells comes in.

Let's notice the fourth chapter of Ephesians. God has arranged that the church shall give to its members that spiritual nourishment which makes this growth possible. We'll begin reading with the 11<sup>th</sup> verse of Ephesians 4:

"And He [Jesus] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" Ephesians 4:11-12.

He gave these various gifts to the church. What does 'edify' mean? It means to build *up*. An edifice is a building. That which is edifying is building, not tearing down, but building *up*. And God has put these gifts in the church for the edifying of the body of Christ. If you and I come under the influence of these gifts then—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers—and yield our lives to the Divine Spirit working through those gifts, we shall individually and collectively be what? Built *up*.

How far and how long? The 13<sup>th</sup> verse:

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” Ephesians 4:13.

That’s it.

A boy starts growing. He’s about so high. And he keeps on growing, growing, growing, growing, growing... How far? To a man’s stature, a man’s height and development. So the church is to grow until it reaches the full stature of Jesus Christ, a fit body for that divine Head which crowns it.

Oh, my friends, what a pity it would be to see puny arms and legs connected with that divine Head. What do you say? And is God able to take the members of the human family, with all their weakness and imperfections, and bring them to the place where the divine Head will not be ashamed of them? Oh yes! He’s not ashamed, it says, to take us in and introduce us before the heavenly family, before His Father. I think it’s wonderful, don’t you? But I think we need to do some growing:

“...Unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children...”  
Ibid., verses 13-14.

We begin children, but we are not to stay that way. We are to grow up to maturity, spiritual maturity.

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” Ephesians 4:14-15.

Here’s the thought of growing up repeated. We’re to grow up. And, dear ones, how do we grow? Well, we know how we grow physically. We go to the table. We eat our bread and milk and beans and potatoes and all the rest. And day by day, the little folks are adding to stature, and we who are mature maintain that development as we partake of that food which God has provided. So it is that feeding on Christ, the living Word, filling the mind with things of God, we develop. We lay aside the experiences of childhood and come into spiritual maturity.

Sixteenth verse. Now comes something I want you to notice very carefully. It’s a long verse. Paul had the gift of making long, involved sentences. But that’s all right; we can take them apart and, changing the figure, we can chew each part separately. Let’s look at the 16<sup>th</sup> verse:

“From whom [from Jesus] the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” Ephesians 4:16.

Now I’m not going to try to tell you everything in that text; there’s a lot in it. But I would like to pull out, pick out, as with a nut pick, one very important principle that Paul states here. Paraphrased and put in simple English, I would express it this way: Each part of the body has something to contribute to every other part of the body.

You know, research in physiology during recent years has added quite a bit to our knowledge of how this works in the body. Take, for instance, the thyroid gland. I’m told that several decades ago when people didn’t know as much about physiology as they know now...(And, by the way, there are several things yet to discover; modern man doesn’t need to think he has suddenly arrived at knowing all about the body, for he doesn’t.) But as I say, I’m told that several decades ago when evolution was beginning to come in quite popular, it was the thing to talk about remnants of organs which had once been used in the body which no longer were needed.

Take a monkey’s tail, for instance. People thought, you know, that man once had a tail, or that he at least descended from some creature that had a tail. But somewhere along the line it got shorter and shorter and shorter, and finally he didn’t have any at all—a lot of foolishness, of course. But these wise men told us there were still some things in the body which were just remnants, something that had been used once.

An example they gave was the thyroid gland, this little gland here in the neck. All it amounted to was this: up to that time, *they* had discovered no particular need for it, so they promptly tagged it as just a remnant of something that had once been used and would eventually be gone, given enough million years, just like the monkey’s tail which we no longer carry around.

Well, I suppose that everybody here this morning knows that the thyroid gland is a long way from being a remnant of something. It’s a long way from being an unnecessary appendage or just a piece of antique furniture that still sits around the house. I suppose that we all here this morning are acquainted, more or less, with the fact that the thyroid gland, and this is my point in connection with the text, makes a very small amount, of course, for it’s only a little gland. It makes a little substance called thyroxin which goes into the blood and is carried all over the body. And it does exactly what Paul says. It contributes to every part of the body. Doesn’t it? Yes! And the person that doesn’t have enough of it, let me tell you, he shows it in a dozen ways. Now, Paul doesn’t name the thyroid gland here. He says every part of the body is doing that.

You know, several years ago I read something from one of the greatest research workers in physiology in modern times. And he made this statement. He said:

“We are inclined to liken the human body to an automobile or some other piece of machinery like that, and to think of the various parts of the body as the parts of a machine—the stomach, the heart, the lungs, the liver, and so forth. And each one can be taken out and set by itself, or it can be assembled, like they assemble automobiles up in Detroit. That is far from being an apt illustration. The truth of the matter is that every organ in the body in a sense permeates and pervades and fills the whole body” [Source Unknown].

And he selected a certain organ of the body. He said:

“For example, to illustrate what I am saying, if we should color that particular organ of the body in blue, where the organ is, as we ordinarily think of it, would be a deep, vivid blue.

“But if we should really picture the extent and pervading influence and presence of that organ through what it makes in the whole body, we’d have the whole body blue, a very light blue, true, but blue nonetheless. In other words, that little organ fills the whole body through its secretions” *Ibid.*

Well! You know, when I was going to our medical missionary course out at Loma Linda years ago, at that time they were beginning (or had before I went there but it was in its early stages), this study of endocrinology: the study of the endocrine glands, the glands of internal secretion like the thyroid. They were beginning to name the different ones. But, you know, as time has gone on they are finding, oh, so many of the organs of the body, even that have other purposes, have what’s called an internal secretion. The liver does. The stomach does. And so we might go on.

Well, Paul told us this 1,900 years ago. He says that every part of the body is contributing to every other part of the body. Now, friends, what’s he telling us that for—to teach us physiology? Well, perhaps. But the main point that *he’s* dealing with is what? The church. And the church is what? The body. The church is Christ’s body. And listen, if that’s so, tiny as you are, and you and you, there is something that God has planned for you to contribute which will permeate and pervade and bless and build up the body of which *you* are a tiny part. Isn’t it wonderful, friends? Isn’t it wonderful? Yes, it’s wonderful.

I think of that beautiful statement in *Ministry of Healing*:

“The humblest workers, in cooperation with Christ, may touch chords whose vibrations shall ring to the ends of the earth and make melody throughout eternal ages” *Ministry of Healing*, page 159.

Oh friends, I think it is a marvelous thing to be a living member of a living body, the living body of Jesus Christ. How different this is from any human organization! The world is filled (it never had so many!), filled with organizations of all kinds: clubs and lodges and unions, guilds and federations, and all sorts of things, some good, some bad, some indifferent. That isn't the point. None of them, not *all* of them put together, can take the place of the church of Jesus Christ. They are utterly *unlike* this organization.

Every organization in this world is built by men, has men in leadership. Concerning the church alone can it truly be said, the Head is in heaven. The Head is in heaven. That's why it is so blasphemous for any religious organization in this world to set up on earth a human head and say, "Here is the vicar of Christ. Here is the vicegerent of God. Here is the one with whom the Lord has left the direction of His church."

True, the Lord has put officers in His church. I read that here in Ephesians 4. But they are all under-shepherds. They recognize that the true Head, the true Leader, the true Director of the church is Christ Himself in heaven.

All right, dear ones, now back to our physiology. Notice this: do you know the only way the thyroid gland can carry out its work of manufacturing and furnishing to the body a substance which is needful all over the body? The only way on earth it can do it is to be willing to be ministered to in turn by the other parts of the body.

Suppose the thyroid gland should stand in glorious independence and say, "No, sir! I am essential, and I am so essential that I am not going to be dependent upon anyone. I am going to make thyroxin and furnish it, and I hope everyone will take all they ought to have. But *I'm* not going to take anything." How long would it furnish thyroxin? Not very long. Not very long. It is only as we receive that we can give. It is only as we acknowledge our dependence upon others that we, in turn, can contribute to the good of others.

So in the church, my friends, if we would fill the place that God has for us to fill as members of His body, we must be willing to receive counsel and advice, helpful criticism. Sometimes it's a good thing to at least look it over even when you think it isn't helpful. It might turn out more helpful than it looks. We need the help of one another, friends. We need the advice of one another. We need the counsel of one another. Oh, that God might deliver us from this sensitiveness, so sensitive, so sensitive...

Why you know, I remember once a church that I was connected with. After I had been there a while, I heard of a certain person in the church that had become offended at something that I had said from the pulpit. Well, bless their heart. How did *I* know that it would offend them? I'm thankful they got over it, thankful they did.

I remember another experience when I was connected with the church in another place. A brother came to me one day and he said, "Brother Frazee, I wish you would speak to Brother so and so. He's offended. He thinks you don't like him anymore."

I said, "All right, I'll speak to him."

So the next chance I got, I took him aside, and we stood there in the evening shadows outside the church building. I took him by the hand and I said, "Brother, let's have a little word together."

You know, I had baptized the brother and he was dear to me. And I took him by the hand and I said, "Brother, what's this I hear that you think that I don't care for you?"

"Well," he said, "Brother Frazee, you just don't speak to me anymore."

"Well," I said, "I'm sorry, Brother, I didn't know it. But," I said, "if that's what's been happening, I'm sorry."

And then I just sort of scratched my head, so to speak. I tried to think what in the world I had done that might leave that impression with him.

I said, "Brother, all I can think of is this. You know, for a while you were getting ready for baptism and you were in the baptismal class, and I was studying with you and helping you to get ready for baptism. And I gave you quite a bit of attention. But since you are baptized now and in the church, I've been depending on you to help others, and I've been busy trying to help some of these other folks that are coming in." I said, "That's probably the reason. You're probably not getting quite as much attention and notice as you did before. But," I said, "don't let that worry you! That isn't a mark of lack of confidence. That's just the other way around. That means you're growing up."

You know, babies have to have quite a bit of attention, but it's too bad when they have to have it on and on and on and on, isn't it? Yes, it is, my friends.

Well, he and I got together and we had a little prayer together, and the Lord knit our hearts together again.

My point is, friends, the Devil is around trying to make people sensitive, to get barriers between them and others to hinder the very work that God would like do in causing us to build one another up.

The thyroid gland must have no barriers. It must be ready to receive the nourishment that comes through the blood from other organs. It must be ready in turn to impart of that which it makes to the rest of the body, and so with every other part. Brother, Sister, let no barrier come between you and another member. Remember, you are contributing to the building up of the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter. This entire chapter is devoted to this wonderful symbol of the church as the body of Christ. The 12<sup>th</sup> verse:

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ” 1 Corinthians 12:12.

Many members. Thank God, in the church there’s room for every one!

I only have two hands. Once in a while I think I *need* three hands, but most of the time I’m glad I have just two. It keeps my mind busy sometimes having those two hands work together. Two feet: I’m very glad I have two. I’ve seen people hobble around with one. I’m glad I have two. Two eyes: I’m glad I have those. And so on around.

Now, Paul says you and I are members of the body in that same way. In the 25<sup>th</sup> verse:

“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another”  
1 Corinthians 12:25.

The margin says ‘no schism’ means no division. If we are members of the body of Christ, my friends, we shall watch carefully that there be no schism.

If we can conceive of our feet as having minds of their own, what a pitiful position you and I would be in if after this service my right foot should decide to go to Tennessee and my left foot head to north Georgia, deeper into Georgia. I’d be in a hard fix, wouldn’t I? Yes. Well, the members of the church *do* have minds of their own, friends. And what a sad thing it is when a schism occurs in the body, when some go this way and some over this way.

The great hymn says, “Like a mighty army moves the church of God.” And an army is distinguished from a mob in that it has organization, leadership, and a *focused* purpose, a definite goal. It moves in one direction—toward its objective.

Let us pray that God will help you and me to answer the prayer of Jesus that His followers may all be one as He and the Father are one. Thus only can we carry out the symbol of being one body.

Now, this morning, this little church at Wildwood is one of the great bodies of Christ all over the world. In the third angel’s message, God has gathered out to Himself a people from the various nations of earth to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. And this morning, this little unit of that great world body has elected these officers to serve.

Brothers and sisters who have been selected, may I lay on your hearts the responsibility of it? In a special way, all that we’ve studied this morning applies to the officers. They are to lead the church in a sense of these responsibilities and in

discharging them. I pray that none of us shall consider the responsibility in a casual way.

You know, in the great telephone company, they have a slogan, "The message must go through." You see pictures of men out in blizzards, or after blizzards, working in the deep snow getting telephone lines up that have gone down. Why? "The message must go through."

Brothers, sisters: the church is God's great line of communication. Our great job is to see that nothing interferes with those channels, that the channels are in no way hindered in their work. As elders, as deacons, as deaconesses, as workers in the Sabbath school and in the other lines, our job is to see that the message is getting through. We are to lead the church in supporting the organized work through tithes, through offerings, through participation in the missionary activities of the church.

But if the officers are to lead, who are to cooperate and follow? The members. How many? Every one. So this morning we speak not merely to the officers but to every member. Think of your responsibility to love the church, to cherish it, to support it, to contribute to its unity, to help with tithes and offerings, to help with missionary activities, in every way to build up the church and make it fulfill its purpose as the body of Christ.

And now to any who may not be members, we extend the invitation in the words of Moses to his father-in-law, Hobab,

"...We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel" Numbers 10:29.

It's a great bus to be traveling on, friends, and there's an empty seat just waiting for you, an empty seat just waiting for *you*. Though the road may be rough and steep sometimes, and there may not be as many springs in the seats as we might wish, all the ease and comfort is waiting for us in heaven. This trip is sometimes, on earth, a rocky and a rough one; yet, let me tell you, it is a joyous trip for Jesus is with us. It's a wonderful thing to be walking through this world, not merely as an individual but as a part of the body of Jesus Christ.

In the Seventh-day Adventist church we do differently from what many churches do. In many churches all you have to do to be a member is just give in your name, and in a few minutes you become a member. But in the Seventh-day Adventist church, we take seriously what Jesus told His apostles when He sent them forth to preach and baptize. He said:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:20.

And so, those who present themselves for membership in the church should expect and should appreciate thorough instruction. They should expect that the church will work with them, study with them over a period of time to help them to know what they're getting into and to help them to that place of *spiritual* experience where their lives are in conformity with the standards and principles of the church.

And yet, my dear friends, that doesn't mean that baptism and church membership are the *end* of development. Not so. It means that at that point, a certain stage of experience has been reached which means a severance with the old life of this world, and an entering into the life of Jesus Christ which will develop more and more as long as life shall last.

And so, may God bless us this morning—as officers, as members of the church, and those that Jesus may be inviting to Himself to become a part of this body. May He bless to our good the words we have read from His Word this morning. And may we all together be a part of that church of the firstborn written in heaven, that we may share in the eternal family of God.

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