

Five Things Jesus Left the Church

Hebrews 9:19-24 & Acts 1:10-11

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Hebrews 9:19-24** – “For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.’
 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.
 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.
 23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, **but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.**” In entering Heaven He left some things here.
- B. **Acts 1:10-11** – “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”
- C. Jesus took many things back to Heaven, but He left us with a great work to carry on until He comes again.
1. We are to be a going people for a coming Lord.
 2. We are to take Christ into all the world so that the whole world will have an opportunity to come into Christ.

JESUS LEFT US AN UNFINISHED TASK. The work of Christ is now the work of the church.

- A. The work of Christ is now the work of Christ’s people . . . The work of Christ is now the work of Christ’s church.
1. **Acts 1:1** – “. . . Of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.”
 2. **Luke 19:10** – “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 3. **Mark 16:15-16** – “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

B. Listening friends . . . Consider this:

1. It has been reported that **3** billion souls will die without hearing the Gospel.
2. **330** million deities receive the rituals and sacrifices from those who are ignorant of a loving God.
3. **821** million Muslims bow in prayer toward Mecca **5** times a day.
4. Millions of Americans no longer claim any religious affiliation, but live from day to day without any commitment to the saving of their souls.
5. Upon hearing someone teaching the Bible, one man in Africa said, “That must not be true, or someone would have been here long ago to tell us about it.”

D. Consider these thoughts:

1. We’ll never bring all the world into Christ, until we bring Christ into all the world!
2. We’ll have no faith in the mission before us, unless we have faith in the Master behind us!
3. We’ll never get others to obey the great commands until we obey the great commission!
4. We cannot expect the world to react to the Word, till we act on it!
5. We’ll never get excited over sowing the seed, until we get excited over seeing the need!”
6. We can’t make Christ mean anything to others, until we make Him mean everything to us!
7. Let’s not jeeringly say, “Look what the world is coming to,” but joyfully say, “Look what has come to the world!”
8. We will make more conversions, when we have more convictions!
9. We’ll never get others to see the joy of claiming Christ, till we get ourselves to see the joy of proclaiming Christ!
10. We’ll never be challenged by seeing through our task, till we recognize the challenge of seeing our task through!
11. We’ll never really consider the lost, till we stop considering the cost.
12. We’ll quit trying to save money, only when we really start trying to save men!
13. We’ll be in a better position to help, when we are in a better disposition to help!
14. We won’t have to pay the penalty in the reaping, if we are willing to pay the price in the sowing!
15. Every heart without Christ is a mission field, and every heart with Christ is a missionary!
16. We are not going to bring in the sheaves until we roll up our sleeves

E. Let His work be our work in an unfinished task that every generation needs to finish.

JESUS LEFT US AN UNCHANGEABLE MESSAGE.

A. We do not have to worry about preaching the truth only to find that truth has changed.

1. **The AUTHOR of truth is not going to change!** **Hebrews 13:8** – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
2. **The MESSAGE itself is not going to change!** **Jude 3** – “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you **exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**”
3. **The BENEFITS of truth are not going to change!** **John 8:32** – “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
4. **The POWER of truth will not change!** **Romans 1:16** – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation . . .”
5. **The SPECIFICS of the truth will not change!** **Ephesians 4:4-6** – “There is one **BODY** and one **SPIRIT**, just as you were called in one **HOPE** of your calling; one **LORD**, one **FAITH**, one **BAPTISM**; one **GOD** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

B. Listening friends:

1. Error enslaves . . . Truth frees!
2. Facts do not cease to exist just because they are ignored!
3. I may limit Him because of my lack of faith . . . But He will never fail us because of a lack of power.

JESUS LEFT US AN UNLIMITED POWER.

A. Our power is provided by God.

1. **The POWER of the gospel is still an unlimited power!** **Romans 1:16** – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation . . .”
2. **1 Corinthians 1:18** – “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”
3. **2 Corinthians 6:7** – “. . . by the word of truth, by the power of God . . .”
4. **1 Thessalonians 1:5** – “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance.”

B. Listening friends:

1. God doesn't need great men . . . great men need God!
2. If God will bring you to it . . . He will bring you through it!
3. Stand on God's Word and you will not fall into error!
4. We may limit Him because of my lack of faith . . . But He will never fail us because of a lack of power.

JESUS LEFT US THE UNDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH HE ESTABLISHED.

- A. Christ established only one church . . . Men, in rejecting it, have established churches to please them.
1. **He promised to build HIS CHURCH.** **Matthew 16:18** – “. . . On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”
 2. **He did build His church and now adds the saved to it.** **Acts 2:47** – “. . . And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
 3. **That is the church He loves and gave Himself for it.** **Ephesians 5:25** - “. . . Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”
 4. The church He has promised to deliver up to His Father. **1 Corinthians 15:24** – “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.”
- B. Listening friends:
1. The Lord's church is not just one among many, it is the only one among any!
 2. The church is the greatest LOST and FOUND department on earth!

JESUS LEFT US UNFAILING PROMISES.

- A. **He promised us His closeness.** **Hebrews 13:5** – “. . . For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
- B. **He promised salvation for those who are scripturally baptized.** **Mark 16:16** – “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
- C. **He promised us a way for our prayers to be heard by the Father.** **John 14:13** – “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”
- D. **He promised that He would come and take us Home with Him.** **John 14:1-3** - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

E. Listening friends:

1. Satan's promises are made to be broken . . . Christ's promises are made to be kept!
2. A promise is a debt unpaid!
3. Christ never made a promise that was too good to be true.

CONCLUSION:

A. Jesus left the church many things . . . We have looked at five:

1. Jesus left us an **UNFINISHED TASK**.
2. Jesus left us an **UNCHANGABLE MESSAGE**.
3. Jesus left us an **UNLIMITED POWER**.
4. Jesus left us the **UNDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH HE ESTABLISHED**.
5. Jesus left us **UNFAILING PROMISES**.

B. Hear God's Holy Word!

1. **God's presence** -- "I will never leave you" (**Hebrews 13:5**)
1. **God's protection** -- "I am your shield" (**Genesis 15:1**)
2. **God's power** -- "I will strengthen you" (**Isaiah 41:10**)
3. **God's provision** -- "I will help you" (**Isaiah 41:10**)
4. **God's leading** -- "And when He puts forth His own sheep, He goes before them" (**John 10:4**)
5. **God's purposes** -- "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil" (**Jeremiah 20:11**)
6. **God's rest** -- "Come to Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (**Matthew 11:28**)
7. **God's cleansing** -- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (**1 John 1:9**)
8. **God's goodness** -- "No good thing will He withhold from them that work uprightly" (**Psalms 84:11**)
9. **God's faithfulness** -- "The Lord will not forsake His people for His great name's sake" (**1 Samuel 12:22**)
10. **God's guidance** -- "The meek will He guide" (**Psalms 25:9**)
11. **God's wise plan** -- "All things work together for good to them that love God" (**Romans 8:28**)

C. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**