

Sunday Celebration (10-3-04)
"Faith for Restoration"

The Church... Cruise Ship or Battleship (Pt. 2)

Are You Trying to Understand the Purpose of the Church in Light of Your Personal Existence, or Are You Trying to Understand the Purpose of Your Life in Light of the Existence of the Church?

"We alone are important to ourselves. Personal happiness, immediate fulfillment, personal concerns can and do trouble us. In adolescence we require everything to revolve around our needs. But church is not only composed of adolescents. Yet we hardly admit anyone to show us, from a wider angle, that our expectations about church and faith, life and love, may be very unrealistic, idealistic, and selfish. Exposure to the larger picture of life in a fallen world is avoided. From a narrower base of concerns and questions the wider, glorious answers of God's answers and work in history remain undiscovered and unappreciated. Uddo Middelman, "The Market Driven Church", p. 57

— The result is that we end up trying to understand the purpose of the Body in light of the finger, rather than the purpose of the finger in light of the hand.

I. THE TENDENCY TO DRIFT

- Man has a HISTORY of Needing Restoration

IN THE BIBLE

- **Gen 3** —
- **The Prophets**

— Is 1:2-4, 10-20 Outward Observation yet still needing restoration

— Mal 1:6-10

- **Jesus in the Temple** — Restoring His Temple (the dwelling place of His presence) to it's Original Design— A HOUSE OF PRAYER

IN CHURCH HISTORY

- The Protestant Reformation

— the Restoration of 4 Critical Fundamentals

- Ongoing Reformation — the Anabaptists; the Holiness Movement; the Charismatic Movement

Does the Church Today Need Restoration? How Have We Drifted?— That's What This Series will be about, but before we jump into those thoughts, let's be aware that to change things takes faith!

II. RESTORATION TAKES FAITH

- Restoration is simply recognizing where you are, and where God wants us to be, and walking in faith to get there. It is taking up God's agenda and making whatever changes necessary to see it get accomplished.

HEB 11.... examples of people who made whatever changes they needed to make in order to take up God's agenda.

— NOTE: They Defined Their Personal Existence by 1st Understanding God's Bigger Agenda. (They understood their role as a finger by first understanding the purpose of the Body)

– Vitality is Revealed by Actions That Were COMPELLED BY CONVICTIONS.

v. 7 "By faith (compelling conviction) **Noah** constructed an ark (he took Action)

v. 8 "By faith (compelling conviction) **Abraham** obeyed when called (by leaving and not knowing where he was going)"

v. 17 ... "By faith (compelling conviction) **Abraham** offered up Isaac

James 2:21-22 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected

NT:4903 sunergeoo, sunergoo; to work together, help in work, be a partner in labor: (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

NT:5048 teleiooo 2. to complete (perfect), i. e. add what is yet lacking in order to render a thing full: (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

v. 24-27 ... "By faith (compelling conviction) **MOSES** refused (to Stay Comfortable) choosing instead to set a course for something he had seen in the Spirit.

THE VITALITY OF OUR FAITH IS DEPENDENT ON THE DIET / NUTRITION THAT OUR FAITH IS "EATING"

- FAITH Needs to Expand — by nature, it reaches out beyond where it is, and if it does not, it begins to be only sight, rather than faith

- To Grow it Feeds on the UNFAMILIAR
- " " the DIFFICULT the CHALLENGE BEYOND OUR ABILITIES & RESOURCES