

STAYING FIT IN CHALLENGING TIMES

PART ONE: The Church's Time to Shine

Scriptures: Ephesians 1:15-23; 4:1-3; 3:20,21

SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2009

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 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." (Jesus) Matthew 16:17,18

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." (The Four Living Creatures and the Twenty-Four Elders in Heaven) Revelation 5:9b,10

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, 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. (The Apostle Paul) 1 Timothy 3:14,15

Jesus is the HEAD of the CHURCH and we as the CHURCH are His

HANDS, His FEET, His VOICE and the reflection of His HEART.

THIS YEAR, AS NEVER BEFORE, LET'S RESOLVE TO BE THE CHURCH!

*My dove, in the clefts of the rock,
In the crevices of the cliff,
Let me see your face,
Let me hear your voice.
(The King to His Bride)
Song of Songs 2:14 (HCSB)*

SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 1:15-23; 4:1-3; 3:20,21

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms,

far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.