Blessings Of The Church: Two Are Better Than One

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 23rd, 2022

Text: Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 *Scripture Reading: Mark 10:28-30*

### Intro

1. Part of the blessings of being a member of the Lord’s church is that we are family! (Mark 10:28-30: As saints we have spiritual family the world over!) – *A Kingdom without borders!*
	1. Matthew 12:46-50: Jesus says His family are “whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven” – obedience makes one a member of God’s family *(Gal. 3:27; Rom. 8:14-17)*
	2. No matter where a saint goes in this world they have family! It’s one of the things Jesus promised to those who obey Him and give things up for Him.
2. The Scriptures describe the church in ways that show it is important to God and to man!
	1. The Body of Christ *(Eph. 1:22-23) – Baptized into the body (I Cor. 12:13)*
	2. The Household of God *(Eph. 2:19) – Family (I Tim. 3:15)*
	3. The Temple of God *(Eph. 2:21-22) – Living Stones (Blocks)*
	4. The Kingdom of God *(Eph. 5:5) – A Kingdom without borders*
	5. The Bride of Christ *(Eph. 5:23-32; Rev. 19:7) – Holy saints*
3. We may usually think of Ecclesiastes 4:7-12, where King Solomon writes, “Two are better than one,” in terms of marriage but we can also apply those blessings to being a member of the church!
4. There are blessings in being a member of the church and one of them is we are not alone for “two are better than one!”

#### ***They Work Together (Ecclesiastes 4:9)***

* 1. Ecclesiastes 4:7-9:
		1. Vanity under the sun is described as being alone.
		2. A man had no son or even a brother and yet he worked and worked, never content with what he had, despite not having someone to share it with or an heir to leave it to.
		3. “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.”
		4. Two working together is always more profitable than just one!
	2. I Thessalonians 5:11:
		1. “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”
			1. Work together with the brethren, encourage one another.
			2. It can be discouraging if one feels they are working all alone.
	3. I Thessalonians 5:12-13:
		1. “But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.”
			1. Speaking of elders (“have charge over you”), the brethren are to appreciate their labor and esteem them highly in love.
			2. They will work together for the good of the congregation and the brethren are to show them love for their work!
	4. Two are better than one because they will work together!

#### ***Protection From Falling (Ecclesiastes 4:10)***

* 1. *Acts 12:3-17:* The church prayed for Peter when he was arrested.
		1. Peter was not alone; the church was gathered together, showing their concern for him, and was praying together for him!
		2. They didn’t know if God would let him suffer James’ fate (Acts 12:1-2) or if He would choose to rescue him; they just did what they could: prayed for him!
	2. I Thessalonians 5:14:
		1. “We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.”
		2. Saints are to look after each other to help one another not to fall!
		3. When we don’t just look out for our own interests but the interests of others (Philippians 2:3-4), we will seek out opportunities to lift one another up!
	3. Hebrews 12:12-13:
		1. “Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.”
		2. We are to help each other out and strengthen the weak and lift each other up!
	4. Two are better than one because they will keep each other from falling!

#### ***Warmth (Ecclesiastes 4:11)***

* 1. This passage certainly causes us to think of the marriage relationship; but it is applicable to the church as well!
	2. I Peter 4:9:
		1. “Be hospitable to one another without complaint.”
		2. One way we show warmth to one another and to strangers is with hospitality.
	3. Hebrews 10:23-25:
		1. As we assemble together regularly, we are to encourage each other to love and do good deeds as we ever get closer to the day of judgment (10:26-31).
	4. Hebrews 13:1-2:
		1. “Let love of the brethren continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
		2. Hospitality *(Strong’s G5381)* means “love for strangers.”
		3. No one wants to feel alone. Visitors are made to feel welcome and treated as family when saints practice hospitality and greet one another with love and warm affection!
		4. A great example of this hospitality (love for strangers) is Gaius in III John 5-6!
	5. Two are better than one because they provide warmth!

#### ***Power (Ecclesiastes 4:12)***

* 1. I Peter 5:8-9:
		1. The devil is a roaring lion prowling about looking for someone to devour.
		2. He wants you to feel alone, powerless, discouraged, weak and ready to fall.
		3. 5:9 says to resist him firm in your faith, knowing there are other brethren throughout the world experiencing the same.
		4. There is power when two or more are together and you can accomplish more than on your own!
		5. We can draw on one another’s strengths so that we do not fall!
	2. Ephesians 6:10-18:
		1. Christians are portrayed as soldiers wearing the full armor of God.
		2. Don’t ever fall for Satan’s lie that you are on your own or a “lone wolf.”
		3. An army fights together! There is power when we stand together!
	3. I Corinthians 10:13:
		1. “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”
		2. Even in temptations, there is power in knowing that what you are being tempted in is not unique to you but others have gone through it (“as is common to man”).
		3. Look for the escape and take it. If you sin, get up and repent, keep moving on!
	4. Galatians 6:1-2:
		1. Restore the fallen with gentleness.
		2. What a blessing it is to be in the church where we do not have to suffer alone, but we are to “bear one another’s burdens!”
		3. If one is tempted and falls, saints are to be there to gently lift them up.
		4. When a saint is suffering or discouraged, we are to help bear their burden!
	5. James 5:19-20:
		1. When one falls away and is brought back, there is power in that because Satan is defeated and the erring saint is restored, their soul saved from death and love covers their sins!
		2. I Peter 4:8: “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”
	6. Two are better than one because together there is power!

## Conclusion

1. Mark 10:28-30: As saints we have spiritual family the world over – We are not alone!
2. Saints must work together, help one another from falling, show warmth to each other and to visitors, and stand together as one, drawing on the power of our faith to withstand the devil!
3. What a blessing to be part of the Lord’s body, the church, where two are better than one!
4. If you are not a Christian, you are outside the family of God! Repent and be baptized!
5. If a Christian in error, remember the honor you have been given as a member of God’s family!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!