

S. W. July 24, 1977 P.m. WXB

THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

I Cor. 12:12-31

We have been dealing with the most significant passage of Scripture in the Bible as relating to spiritual gifts. The great theme of the Christian church.

Spiritual gifts are unfolded through 1 and 11. And the same spirit gives to each Christian as he will. These gifts are distributed for use. And each Christian receives such a gift. Every Christian without exception, receives one of his gifts. So we could claim that every Christian gets a gift from the spirit. And needs to function in this complex organism known as the church.

The following verses Paul will devote to the great character of the church. Which is in its form and in its purpose, and in its function to have a relationship with its members and with Christ. Which is in its fellowship.

The sad plight today of the church is evident that the true character of the church has been misunderstood.

Some of us would not behave as we do, some of us would not be as petty and as disagreeable as we are, if we understood the church. We would treasure it instead of tearing it apart. We would love all men with the love of Christ. And our testimony would go out with a new note. That church has a passionate concern for people. If we ever see the answer to our prayer, that Heaven would send us a revival, that the dead church must begin to live. The church that has been wounded is made whole. That the indifferent church has been rekindled with fire from above. We must come to recognize the body as illustrated here under the

guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Now remember the same Lord, and the same Spirit, who has given the spiritual gifts comes to us and presents to us the church as the body of Christ.

If time permits us in our study, we shall discuss briefly - The Church As A Living Body. V. 12-13. The Church As The Diversified Body. V. 14-19. The Church As The United Body. V. 20-26. The Church As The Gifted Body. V. 27-31.

I. THE CHURCH AS A LIVING BODY - V. 12-13

V. 12. - For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of the one body being many, are one body. So also, is Christ. For introduction and illustration of truth - is being used. Every organism wholly supposes, diversity, and unity. That is different parts united so to complete one whole. Now Paul has talked that there must be unity in the church, and at the same time - diversity of gifts. And he illustrates this with the human body, it is one and yet it consists of many members. The body of Christ or the church, as the body consists of many members and is yet one. So it is, with the church. It is one and yet consists of many members. Each member having his own gift and office.

→ Rom. 12:4-5, Eph. 1:23, 4:16. V. 1-16. Col. 1:18. Anyone familiar with the New Testament and these passages of Scripture will immediately discover that the picture is - the church is the spiritual body of Christ.

Although it has many members, with diverse functions and duties, just like the human body. It is nevertheless one organism. And a single life flows through it all. The body of Christ is the same -- many members but just one body.

V. 13 - For by one spirit are we all baptized into the body. It is the proof of what immediately preceeds. The church is one, for and by one spirit. We were through the spirit constituted one body. The whole spirit received and has made this body. Now the illusion here is not one directly of baptism. But Paul says that we were made one body through the Holy Ghost. That is by spiritual (regeneration).

Any communication of the Holy Spirit is called the baptism. Immediately, and organically united, as partaking of the same life. ^(ye are all one) Gal. 3:28. Now this is the essential point - it is between the human body and the church. As the body is one because it is pervaded by one soul or principle life. So the church is one because it is of one spirit.

Now all the parts of the body which partake of the common life, belong to the body. Therefore, all of those in the spirit of God dwells and are members of the church. Which is the body of Christ. They may be members of the visible or the nominal church but they are not members of the church in that sense in which it is the body of Christ. The nature of the church is a principle unity. It is one that is not united under a visible head. But it is united under Jesus Christ, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the members.

Having been made to drink in the one spirit, now this may sound like a difficult clause. Whether it is -- we have all drank from one spirit. That it, we have all been made partakers of the Spirit. Compare John 7:37. The Spirit is compared to

self any man Thirst let him come unto me & Drink -
out of him shall flow Living Waters -

water of which men is said to drink. The doctrine - by receiving the Spirit, we are all made members of the body of Christ. That is in virtue of the indwelling of the Spirit, that the church is one living body. The human body is a perfect image of the church and the Lord Jesus. It is a living organism - with many members controlled by one spirit.

Not A body with two heads - or a head with two bodies. Ye are the body of Christ. Ye being many are one body in Christ. Rom. 12:5.

This living body includes the Jew, the Gentile, bond or free, rich or poor, young or old, learned or ignorant, living or dead. All who in every age have been made to drink of the same soul nourishing spirit. All are members of the living body. All who have been brought nigh by the body of Christ. Is the church a failure. It may be. But the church, which is the body, the living body of Christ is no failure. But when he comes to gather up his precious treasure, he will have a body that will be a glorious witness, of his suffering.

When we think of the living body, what does this suggest to us? It suggests a spiritual union between the leaders and believers. But we think also of the physical body in which Christ lived and walked, and died. His physical body which functioned here and when he left, here is a spiritual body which is his church. Indeed the church would never have existed if he had not redeemed it first by the sacrifice of his own physical body.

When God came down to earth in human form, conceived of the virgin Mary, he came to reveal the holy principle upon which we should live our lives. The physical body

of Jesus expressed perfectly what God intended through the spiritual body of Christ - the church. That you are a part of if you are a believer.

Dead Body - Come not have life, or ability move, function!

Now the physical body of Jesus - there were three things. First, it was complete identification with the Father's will. He submitted to the limitation of human form. His obedience unto death - even the death of the cross. In all points, he was tempted as we and yet he was without sin. His identification also with us, in the human was, with all of the conditions of the human race.

And his identification was a total penetration because when he came - it was total warfare. A full scale invasion from Heaven. Upon every expression of sin. The social, political, the moral - he healed the sick, he raised the dead, he conquered lepers. And he was raised by the power of God after his crucifixion. No part of his human life escaped the penetration of the redemptive purpose of God in Christ Jesus.

He fulfilled all of the law of God. He moved and worked in every circle of life.

But remember, one day, they took his physical body and laid it in a tomb. The world crucified him, and rejected his whole principle of life. They said, we will not have this man to reign over us. They wouldn't stand and let him come in and bless their lives. It was costly. But God raised him from the dead and his own blood was poured out in love for us.

Now remember at Pentecost, the resurrected body of the Lord Jesus, was already in Heaven and was united as the head. And came to join the spiritual body that was

being formed on earth. These principles which he stood for might condemn him. He had the gun in his physical body.

It is perfectly clear that he lived in this way. And now this little group of disciples were going out to penetrate the world.

This is what Paul says about the body of Christ. And our bodies are living temples of the Holy Spirit. Now, as the body of Christ on earth, we are to fulfill in our lives, in our physical life, the indwelling life - the redemption should come to total victory. This is something of the character of the church. By one spirit, are we all baptized into one body. And to drink into that spirit. Here is the mystery, the glory of the church, of Jesus Christ. If we have been saved by God's grace, washed in his blood, baptized by his Holy Spirit. We drink of the same fountain of life. We are sustained by the same power of the good shepherd. Here is complete identification.

It is - the church is the living body. And we have certain ties that bind us together. One to another. It is not like an Englishmen meeting an Englishmen or an American meeting an American. Or a German and a German. We discover that we have a tie because the spirit in the church and in the body of Christ. What does that mean to us.

Is there not one person in the body of Christ today who has not felt himself lost and guilty. And needing to come to true repentance. This is the church - a company of men and women who have met God. As sinner at Calvary.

We are not a group of individual units. Set off here. But we are a body completely identified, with his death and his spiritual life.

Now if we split off, then we miss the principle. If the capital "I" is the thing that dominates. But here is the living body. The indwelling spirit with a new nature. Complete in identification with him.

II. Diversified Body

V. 14 - For the body is not one but many members. This is proof that diversity of gifts. The church no longer consists of persons having the same gifts - than the body is all eye, or all ear, it is not one member - but many. So the church - the word member means a part, of its own. No one is perfect or complete in himself. No one can say to the others, I have no need of you. Each represents something and that is not so well represented in the others. Therefore harmony and co-operation, sympathy and mutual affections are required between individual Christians. As they are members of Christ's body.

V. 15 - If the church should say - because I am not the hand, I am not of the body, or not of the body. This is always the way in which he applies this figure. The particular situation which existed in the church at Corinth - those possessing the more spectacular gifts were evidently proud - considering themselves better than the others. Possessing the less spectacular gifts - those folks were inclined to be disgruntled, and waste the talents they had. Now Paul was going to show the foolishness of such an attitude. Why the foot and the ear do not say because they are not the hand or the eye, they are not in the human body. Now God sets each as

it pleases him, and serves well in its place.

Now this member of the body is diversified, but it is to edify and depends on the compactness of the organization. Every joint supplies. Now if any part of the church is loosely attached, that destroys compactness. There must be a togetherness here - even though it is diverse. You may lift up a woven garment by one thread, because the different threads are interwoven. You may lift a little pack of mail by one steel scale. Because all are linked together. Now the local congregation in the church, there is a sense of duty when we come to the Lord's Supper. Or to preach the Gospel. We readily understand how the head is Christ, we are the body. He is the head. The pastor is not the head of the church. The deacon is not the head of the church. The Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church. So the living body has diversified members.

The head is not to be understood as the part of the body above the shoulders - the eye, ear, and the nose are parts of the body. Not of the head. Rather the head is what directs and controls the rest. The one who gives the orders - the brain.

V. 16
If the foot should say because I am not the hand, I am not of the body. The conclusion in V. 15-16, is Paul talking about the nature of the church, the duty that is unreasonable and absurd for a foot to complain that it is not a hand. As much as it is for one member of the church to complain that he is not another. Or does not have another gift. For instance, he complains because he is not an apostle. He doesn't have the gift of healing. Or some other gift of the spirit. Paul points out and shows that this very thing will destroy the body. It all works together. Here is a diversity that will be obvious.

Now this suggests the wrangling over spiritual gifts. If you had a body made up of an eye or an ear. If you just had one big ear for your body, you would be some sight. Or if you had one big mouth. Now that would be something. My, the church would be fatally impoverished.

For this reason, God himself has set the members in the body. Both physically and spiritually according to his will.

V. 17 - The obvious meaning of that verse is that the organization depends upon the union of the members endowed with different function. The idea of the church is equally as plain as that of the human body.

V. 18 - ^{rl} But now hath God set the members, everyone of them. In the body as it has pleased him. // As the matter actually is - Paul says. Instead of the body being all one member, he has arranged the parts each in his place, in this living organic whole. He did not give itself the power of vision, nor the ear the ability to discriminate sounds.

It is also in the church. The position of the gifts of each member are determined by the Lord. One has one gift - another another. One a pastor, one a missionary, one a laborer in the city, one a laborer in the wilderness. And as God wills and God orders, now it is inconsistent with the idea of the church that each decide on his own position, and his function as a member. According to his own notion.

The body principle here is that we are rich indeed if we can see this simple lesson which Paul is getting across to us.

Because the compactness for each part of work is connected and bound together with the other part. We are connected with each other. Now in order for the church to be the highest, at its best in life, there must be this vital connection between each member and the head which is Christ.

Now it follows at once, that if there be in a congregation one member who has no living connection with Jesus Christ, that member is a stumbling block and a big weight on the church.

It is impossible that strength can be imparted to the church by that man's being a member of it. His connection to the church is absolutely hurtful to the church. There is no way to evade any other conclusion. Now, let it be clear that all Christians are to be working and committed to the church for the manifestation of the glory of God.

It is interesting to note that in this passage, the body, as a sound whole is a marvelous thing. V. 12, 27 - Paul uses the word body 16 times. In the whole paragraph 18 times in all.

He is looking at an ideal living body. And he thinks of the combination of the members and it is a wonder and a marvel.

Many years ago a scientist, Dr. Prague, a fine Christian man was looking and lecturing on the human body before the Medical Association in Chicago. He was showing the many things that make up the human body. He talked about the different level of materials in the body. He began to talk about a 150# man from a chemical

aspect. He contains lime enough to whitewash a fair sized chicken coop. Sugar enough to fill a small shaker. Iron enough to make a 10 penny nail. Water, he says, he also possesses. The total value of all of the ingredients is 98¢. That is about (60¢ per 100 weight on the hoof.)

What do you think about that. That is all we are worth by chemical analysis. You take the lime, the sugar, the iron, and the water -- and all we are worth is about 98¢ - that is the body.

But everybody knows that is not all the truth about the body. Because the Psalmist says "I will give thanks unto thee because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are thy works - that my soul knoweth right well. My frame was not hidden from thee. When I was made in secret, and curiously wrought from the lowest parts of the earth, mine eyes did see my unperfect substance. And in thy book were all my members written. Which day by day were fashioned - and as yet there was none of them.

All of the members were known for one mind and one master before they came into existence. That is the figure Paul uses when he talks about the body. It's material substance is almost worthless. That is the very stuff that his marvelous organism known as the body of Christ. What a humble statement - what a great concept. What are we worth - nothing at all, save as we are wrought and work into the mystery of his life, and of his body.

For the body is not one member but many. As we continue our study.

That is a tremendous fact.

III. A UNITED BODY

✓ V. 20 This body is not only living and diversified, but it is united. It again, V. 20. The key to this truth is found in V. 20. Here is the emphasis upon unity. The admonition is do not despise another's gift. Do not ignore. Yours is needed within the body. This may be a repetition of the idea of diversity, but it is very consistent when we come to the matter of unity.

V. 21 - And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee. There must be mutual dependence upon the members of the church. As in the body, the eye cannot dispense with the hand. Nor the head with the feet. Everything must be used.

V. 22 - May much more those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, upon those, we bestow more abundant honor.

Paul says the (less attractive) gifts are the most important. The heart is more important than the tongue. So the church - the gift of prayer is important. Maybe more than eloquence. What would the tongue do without the lungs which are neither seen nor heard. God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

These childish Corinthians prized the gifts of tongues which they used. They could edify no one but the gift of prophecy which the whole body of Christ could be

When one member suffers - all the members suffer. When one member is honored - all the members are honored. All are inter-related. And all are inner-dependent at the same time. Therefore, here is a united body with all the members bound together. The body of Christ then - the living body of Christ penetrates every point and every aspect of life to the glory of God. This is the purpose of the spiritual body of the church. There is a vast difference of course between the various members of the body, and when one member suffers - then the whole body suffers. Have you ever been walking with your shoes off and stepped on a thorn. And what happens when you get a thorn in your foot. Why your nerves send out signals. And your body becomes active. Your back bends and your hands reach out to remove the thorn. Your eyes begin to water. Your voice begins to complain. The whole fact that your body felt the impact of the wound.

Now, the fellowship in the church which is in the united body, is in caring one for another. And it is illustrated here in the covering and the protection of the weaker parts. And it is functioning happily in its appointed place. To preserve the whole church.

The world will never feel our penetration if we as the body of Christ do not know this meaning of fellowship and unity in diversity.

We need to know how to disagree without becoming disagreeable.

We become jealous of the gifts of others. And instead of covering the weaker members for the protection of the whole, the first thing we like to do is expose them. We criticize, we judge, we condemn.

And very often young believers become disillusioned because of the lack of Christian love and the lack of Christian fear.

Too often the flames of love have practically died out in the Christian church.

It is a shame and a disgrace that many people go to a priceless grave because the church sits over here and quarrels and bickers. While the body of Christ is being torn apart. And it becomes totally ineffective. Has the church forgotten the secret. Of absolute fellowship in the midst of diversity.

Remember the heart is pumping blood to all parts of the body - to the hand, it is feeding the stomach, and it is benefiting every part. In so doing, each benefits itself also. The same applies to the spirit's ministry to the body. It is involved in every Christian's care of his brethren. If one member suffers - all the members suffer together.

A toothache effects the whole body - even the spirit. How pious does one feel with a toothache.

It is with the church. Suffering of one is the suffering of all.

Remember he that loses his life shall find it, and quite often we hear people say - if only I was Mr. So and So - I could do so and so, in the church of the Lord Jesus. If I only had that position in the church. If I had his brilliance and his possessions. Now Paul said nothing of that kind is to happen. He said the weakest

and apparently the lowliest of the body is equally important to the functioning of the whole body.

If we could summarize these ideas under the united body - we would say first, we need to realize that we need each other. There is no such thing as isolating yourself in the church. Or to become so engrossed in one bit of work in the church, and convinced that yours of the supreme importance. Regardless what the rest of the church does. This is a tragic thing to happen. There are those who get so swept up, in one little thing, in the church that they think - well, now this is beyond all else in the church. And they neglect to even criticize others. Who have chosen to do other work. Now if the church is going to be healthy in body, we need the work of everyone.

A second thing here we ought to respect each other. In the body, there is no question of relative importance. If a limb, or any organ ceases to function - the whole body is thrown out of gear.

It is so with the church.

Whenever you begin to think about your own importance in the Christian church - your possibility of doing Christian work is gone.

A third thing, we ought to sympathize with each other. If any part of the body is effected - the other part ought to feel it.

We suffer in sympathy because we cannot help or do something. The person who cannot

see beyond his own nose, he cannot see beyond his own family circle connection, misses the real uniting force in the church.

Yet through sin and backsliding, there are those who bring partial paralysis in the connection to the healthy church. Life does not pass from the head to this member. It would follow them from this - when a church is to attain its best and greatest activities, those things should be done which will restore the circulation to any member. And when the circulation is feeble or interrupted, therefore, every time you bring one back to the joy of salvation - a back-slidden Christian - you have re-established full connection between that member and the head.

There is no way by which compactness with other parts can be maintained when this circulation is interrupted. There is a losing from Christ, the head. There is a losing from every part. If man communicates with the Lord Jesus Christ in a real way, he is profitable. Our Lord did not leave us free to seek our own way. Or devise by our own wisdom. If we follow man's methods - we will have things loose jointed. When it rattles - it moves. Wherever it carries a large number of members - there will be no vital connection with the head.

We must somehow come back to this Heavenly principle. If we are to renew the unity of the church. And if the spirit is to flow through our minds together and to harmonize and to overcome the great problems today. It simply loses life when there is no light - there is no need for a candlestick. And the candlestick is removed.

What direction are you going - there is no other direction for you. If God is to be glorified in this world, he is to be glorified by the institution which he has appointed. His church. He has designated and established it as a must.

Our hope then for reaching men, our hope for saving men is through the living body. And our connection with the head is the pointed way.

IV. GIFTED BODY. V. 27-31

Now Paul comes to make an application of this truth as to the matter of spiritual gifts and the body which he has illustrated with. That if the body is to be perfectly healthy and function, it must be doing the same thing that our Lord Jesus meant for it to do with God as the over sight.

Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular. He states that when sympathy is needed - we need to give it. It is not merely the duty of one Christian to have sympathy with another. To suffer when he suffers, to rejoice when he is honored. But such is his nature in relation that it must be so. Now this is truth, Paul says, that we belong to Christ. Now, if you do not have this kind of sympathy, if you do not belong to the body of Christ.

The time has not yet come when every believer shall have the same care for another, as for himself. For the joy or sorrow. The idea is here set before us. And blessed are those who approach this standard.

V. 28 - God has set some in the church, he says, as we unfold again some of the gifts.

He gave some apostles in this body. What a variety of construction. He shows what consists in the common life of the church. That in the common body, prophets,

and men who spoke for God through his spirit. God hath tempered the body together and he hath set the members. Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you, and appointed you that you should bear much fruit. Is there anything in the realm of nature that is more wonderful than the human body.

The great lesson to be learned is here spoken to us. That there be no split, no rent in this body because he said, here are those that are sent forth to do the work of an apostle. At the head of everything he puts the apostle. Those who were closest in contact with Jesus. Jesus never wrote a word on paper. He never left a printed book.

But the apostles were men who put his message down.

It was said one time of Alexander Whyte after a service someone spoke. Dr. Whyte you preached today as if you had come straight from the presence. Perhaps I did, answered the man of God.

The man whom comes from the presence of authority, is God's man.

Once again he said, teach us. Now it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of teachers. Who build up the converts that are won by the preachers and evangelists of the apostles.

When we think of this - it was a tremendous past.

Another gift Paul spoke about was (helps.) These were people who went to minister

to the poor, the orphans, the widows, the strangers. From the very beginning of Christianity this was a practical thing. A man may not have the gift of a teacher. But he can open his heart to others who need help.

He speaks again about (governments) literally means the work of a (ship's pilot.) Who steers the ship through the rocks to harbor. The people to whom Paul is referring are the people who carry out the administration of the church. It is essential work in the foreground of these leaders and teachers. But here in the background, there are those who shoulder the routine, day-by-day administration.

Now man may appoint many to office who do not have the necessary gifts. But God never does. If a man therefore points himself as a worker of miracles or a faith healer, then he is false. The only evidence that God intended, for the human eye was for the faculty of vision. And the gifts that he has given to the church, were given for a purpose. And all the body is not an eye nor an ear.

V. 31 - But covet earnestness the best gifts and I will show unto you a more excellent way. The best gifts. The more useful gifts. The very different standard of excellence. I will show you an excellent way. Covet means to burn with zeal - the more excellent way means something beyond comparison. Something beyond the way is a traveled road. And Paul sees them stumbling along a traveled road and he says, I want to show you the best way to get there. The way of (Christian love.) And he is going to spend the whole next chapter telling them about that way.

Now we are familiar with the word ambition. In process of time, it came to signify going around for votes. That is, a man with earnest desire. What would you consider the greatest honor that could come to you. And Why? Was a question that

G. Campbell Morgan asked some young people once. ^{about them} He wanted to discover their ambitions. And I think it fits right in with this closing part. Covet desire - the greater gifts. And it suggests here what one might desire. The true ambitions of the church. We have ambitions - individual members need to desire gifts as something for usefulness.

Now some of those young people answered this way. First, the ability to help those who are in need. What a great honor. The wounded, the weak, the crippled.

But let me say to you, those that covet that gift tonight there are chances everywhere that you can realize your ambition and do not make a mistake about just thinking about that ambition. Do not just sit down and wait for some great opportunity.

Dr. Broughton once preached a sermon on the life of Jesus. As he went, as he passed by, as he was in the way. And his sermon, he showed how nearly all of the works of Jesus were wrought as he was going some place. As he was on his way, as he went. Thank God for people who ^{HAVE} ambition to help.

Some young people said, we want to be able to win souls for Christ. Now knowing that seems difficult but the chances are all about you. With that ambition - if you will dare with courtesy, with naturalness, you can work. Others said we would like to go if we knew about a distinct call to the mission field. Others said we have an ambition to please Christ. Others said we have the desire to hear Jesus say at the end of life, "well done". How inclusive that is. And yet it is searching. We may rest assure that Christ will never look into our eyes and say "well done"

unless it has been well done.

Remember, in order for this to happen, you must be doing things well, right now.

He said that he was moved by one girl who wrote this
The highest honor that could come to me would be to know that
prayers are answered. I know what your mother prayed for
mothers pray for and they pray for us. And he says I clearly
I would like for all of my mothers prayers for me to become
honor I want - that is a cherished ambition. Why not live
toward it.

Unless the gifts are used in a spirit of love, they are
is the most important thing of all. Now remember, the church
It is the diversified body. It is the united body. And

And if you have grasp the truth about the body, then
more to God. God's whole program hinges upon that. It means
Christian - you are not simply to participate in the church
few services now and then. It means that you are here in
penetration for Jesus, at any price, to bring the good news
area of life in which you move.

Now that is only possible within the church - within
Are you here in the name of Christ that you may be used
by this great principle which we have tried earnestly to
God - is an organism. And gifts are bestowed unto the body
Of his divine church.

Jim Myrell - Spencer, Pa.
Run away from God -
finally Baylor College
Study got job -
Then got job last time
General home -
Thing turned life
around - got Call
one mother come
Parting with her
child 2 yrs old -
I had cut his hair
with a knife - discovered
all life - and advised
Repentance - Brought
back to life -
God took control -
heart stopped twice -
But took down on bed
little life & thought of
all it should be - college
S. S. Summary - 34 yrs old
work with like will return
mother rich - facing operation
Such as body
Turn life around.

unless it has been well done.

Remember, in order for this to happen, you must be doing things well right now.

He said that he was moved by one girl who wrote this answer to his question. The highest honor that could come to me would be to know that in my life my mother's prayers are answered. I know what your mother prayed for he said. I know what mothers pray for and they pray for us. And he says I clearly understand. He said I would like for all of my mother's prayers for me to become true. The greatest honor I want - that is a cherished ambition. Why not live toward it. And strive toward it.

Unless the gifts are used in a spirit of love, they are of little use. Love is the most important thing of all. Now remember, the church is the living body. It is the diversified body. It is the united body. And it is the gifted body.

And if you have grasp the truth about the body, then you will become infinitely more to God. God's whole program hinges upon that. It means that if you are a Christian - you are not simply to participate in the church program, or to enjoy a few services now and then. It means that you are here in this world for the total penetration for Jesus, at any price, to bring the good news of his life to every area of life in which you move.

Now that is only possible within the church - within a fellowship with diversity. Are you here in the name of Christ that you may be used in this way. Are you living by this great principle which we have tried earnestly to unfold. The church is of God - is an organism. And gifts are bestowed unto the Lordship of Christ himself. Of his divine church.

How were these men
Is not this the treatment to which many of us are subjected?
God intended us to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
We know what has dwarfed us!
Need - Bible fed - Prayer fed - Church fed.