

Chapter 25 The Church

I. The Church's Name

II. The Church's Work

III. The Church's Health

IV. The Church's Head

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1. Church as community
 2. Context
 3. Parties

I. The Church's Name

A. The Invisible Church (catholic, universal)

1. Consists of
 - a. The whole number of the elect
 - i. That have been, are, or shall be gathered into one
 - ii. Under Christ the Head thereof;
2. And is
 - a. The spouse
 - b. The body
 - c. The fulness of Him that fills all in all

B. The Visible Church (catholic, universal, international)

1. Consists of
 - a. All those throughout the world that profess the true religion;
 - b. And of their children
2. And is
 - a. The kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - b. The house and family of God
3. Out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation

II. The Church's Work

A. Christ gives work: Unto this catholic visible Church Christ has given

1. The
 - a. Ministry
 - b. Oracles
 - c. Ordinances of God,
2. For the
 - a. Gathering (of the saints)
 - b. Perfecting of the saints
3. In this life

4. To the end of the world

B. Christ gives help: And does

1. By His own presence and Spirit
2. According to His promise
3. Make them effectual thereunto.

III. The Church's Health

A. **The Changing Church:** This catholic Church has been

1. Sometimes more visible
2. Sometimes less visible.

B. **The Standard Church:** And particular Churches (which are members thereof)

1. Are more or less pure
2. According as
 - a. The doctrine of the Gospel is taught and embraced
 - b. Ordinances administered (including discipline)
 - c. Public worship performed more or less purely in them

C. **The Purest Church:** The purest Churches under heaven are subject both to

1. Mixture
2. Error

D. **The Worst Church:** Some (Churches) have so degenerated,

1. As to become no Churches of Christ
2. But synagogues of Satan

E. **The Guaranteed Church:** Nevertheless, there shall be always a Church on earth

1. To worship God
2. According to His will

IV. The Church's Head

A. **There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ.**

B. **Nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof;**

1. What he is: But is...

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- a. That Antichrist,
 - b. That man of sin
 - c. And son of perdition,
2. What he does: that...
- a. Exalts himself
 - b. In the Church
 - c. Against
 - i. Christ
 - ii. All that is called God