

# Two Sides of the Church

## 2 Timothy 2:17-20

### Introduction:

- A. This text illustrates the two sides of the Lord's church.
  - 1. Members erred (v. 17,18) — human side.
  - 2. Foundation stood (v. 19) — Divine side.
- B. This lesson illustrates two sides of the Lord's church.

### Discussion:

#### I. The Perfect Side of the Church — the Divine Side.

- A. The only Perfect Man. (Cf. 1 Pet. 2:22).
  - 1. Perfect foundation of the church (1 Cor. 3:11,12).
  - 2. Perfect head of the church (Eph. 1:22,23; 5:23).
  - 3. Perfect builder of the church (Matt. 16:18).
  - 4. Perfect purchaser of the church (Acts 20:28).
  - 5. Perfect savior of the church (Eph. 5:23).
  - 6. Perfect lawgiver and judge of the church (Jas. 4:11,12).
- B. The only Perfect plan (Eph 2:20-3:5).
  - 1. The perfect law (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:11).
  - 2. The perfect organization (Phil. 1:1; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Pet. 5:2; Acts 14:23).
  - 3. The perfect worship (John 4:24; Acts 2:42; Col. 3:16).
  - 4. The perfect mission (Eph 3:10; Eph 4:12; 1 Tim. 3:15; cf. 2 Tim. 2:2).

#### II. The Imperfect Side of the Church — the Human Side.

- A. It is made up of *imperfect* people.
  - 1. They sometimes sin. (1 John 1:8-10).
  - 2. They sometimes err in doctrine (2 Tim. 2:18; 1 Tim. 1:3).
  - 3. They sometimes err judgment (cf. 2 Cor. 12:13)
  - 4. They sometimes err because of fleshly weakness (1 Cor. 10:6; cf. 1 Cor. 9:27).
  - 5. They sometimes err because of social pressure (Gal. 2:11,12).
- B. It is made of *improving* people. (2 Pet. 3:18).
  - 1. They sin, but they repent. (1 John 1:8-2:1).
  - 2. They are imperfect, but going toward perfection (Heb. 6:1).

### Conclusion:

- A. The divine side cannot be improved (cf. Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:6-9).
- B. The human side can be improved.
  - 1. The erring can be restored. (Jas 5:19,20; Gal. 6:1).
  - 2. The unruly can be disciplined. (2 Thess. 3:6).
  - 3. The faithful can be "perfected" (Eph. 4:12; Tit. 2:11,12; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Jno. 2:15,16).
- C. The perfect plan imperfectly carried out is still better than an imperfect plan.