The Three Historical Phases of The Church
Acts 20:28-30

Introduction:
A. “Church/churches” in KJV 114 times — must be important to the Lord.
   1. He bought it with blood (Acts 20:28)
   2. He is the savior of it (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23).
B. Church history key to understanding our relationship to the church today.
C. Church history can be divided into three phases:

Discussion:

I. The Planning Phase.
A. Eternally planned (Eph. 3:1-12).
B. Divinely promised and prophesied.
   1. By Isaiah (2:1-5).
      b. “Lord’s house” (cf. 1 Tim. 3:15).
      c. “All nations” (cf. Matt. 28:18-20)
   2. By Daniel (2:36-44.)
      a. Babylonian Empire (606-536 BC)
      b. Persian Empire (536-330 BC)
      c. Greek Empire (330-146 BC)
      d. Roman Empire (146-476 BC)
   3. By Jesus (Matt. 16:18; Mk. 9:1)

II. The Perfected Phase.
B. Spreads though out the world. (Acts 8:3,4; 9:31; 13:1; 14:23, etc.)
   1. Early by personal direction.
   2. Later by personal direction and written word. (Cf. 1 Cor. 14:26).
   3. Finally and until present by written word. (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16,17).

III. The Perverted Phase.
   1. Apostasy from within.
   2. Perverse (perverted) things to produce division.
B. The progression of perversion.
   1. Subtle leadership and organizational changes.
   2. Evolution into universal organization and control.
   3. Two faces of Catholicism — east and west. (1054)
   4. Proliferation of Protestantism.
      a. Lutheran — 1517
      b. Episcopal — 1551
      c. Methodist — 1791
      d. Baptist — 1608

Conclusion:
A. Let be a part of the church purchased by His blood.
B. Let us remain true to the word of His grace (v. 32).