

Gospel Meeting 2010

Buhle Park Church of Christ

Theme: "The Church a light in the world"

Topic: Grow where you are planted

Brother N Matlala

(Wattville Church of Christ, Brakpan, Gauteng, South Africa)

Isaiah 2: 2 – 3

"Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills, and the nations will stream to it. And all the people will come and say, "Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Brethren, neighbours and friends, this is the place where the light shines. The Church of Christ where doors are opened for every one of us. Its owner Jesus says, "While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become sons of light". I want to be translated into this like and wish that all of us should be. The question is who is this light? The same Jesus says, "I have come as light in the world, so that everyone who believe in Me will not remain in darkness." Who amongst us would like to be in darkness for the rest of his/her life? In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world, he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have light of life." We are the light because we are in Jesus. Amen

Since we are in this house, the Church, we have to grow spiritually where we are planted as collectively and more so as an individual.

Brethren, we are planted by God in our local Churches and we should respect and honour this set up of plantation by remaining in our local church and be productive. Our mission in our local churches is to seek and save that which is lost.

Acts 17:26 says, "And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the faces of the earth, having determined their appointed times and boundaries of their habitation."

Allow me to pose one or two questions:

- Who determines that I should live in Wattville? I was not born there.
- Who said I should be the member of the Church where I am living?
- Who determined my boundary of my habitation?

Brethren, the topic is very simple and straight forward, viz "Grow where you are planted." It is therefore your calling to lighten up the corner where God placed you. Be active and produce spiritual fruit in the location where God relocated you because He is the One who placed you there...

Listen carefully to the following statement by Moses:

Gen 2:7-8 and verse 15, "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden toward the east in Eden; and there He placed the man who He formed. [For what?]. Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

I think and believe that God carefully planted me in Wattville in order to cultivate it and keep it. God never do a mistake. I therefore believe that my local church is the Church of Christ in Wattville.

In Luke 9 and 10 Jesus stresses local place like this:

Luke 9:4 "Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that City."

Luke 10:5 – 9 "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. "Stay in that house, eat and drink what they give you; for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.

What will these men of God be doing whilst they are staying in the same house...9:2 says that they should proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

That is what I have to do in a local church. Growing in a local church, people in the environment will observe my conduct and my daily routine as a Christian and start to label me as a Christian. Acts 11: 26. Wow.

My dearest brethren, we have to grow spiritually in a local church.

What is the purpose of my involvement in the local church?

God had established three institutions on this earth, viz, the family, civil government, and the local church. It is the local church, which has been commissioned by God to carry out His purpose in training the saints to reach the lost and encourage them to be fruitful in the Lord. Therefore, God's plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled in and through the local church. The purpose of this lesson is to impress upon the individual the central role, which the church plays in his/her everyday life.

The term local church or where I have been planted, distinguishes a specific body of Christians serving and ministering in a particular geographical location. 1 Cor 12:27. 'Now you are Christ's body and individually members of it.

As we grow our purpose in the local church is:

- Evangelism. Acts 2:41
- Teaching. Verse 42
- Prayer. Verse 42
- To observe two ordinance of the church, viz, baptism in verse 41 and the Lord's supper in verse 42.
- To be a testimony of God's power and grace. Verse 43
- For mutual assistance and ministry. Verse 44 – 45

- To reach out into the community. Verse 46 – 47
- To glorify and praise God. Verse 47 and
- To spread the gospel worldwide. Mark 16:15

Remember, as we grow in maturity, we will begin to aspire to be ministers. 1Tim 3:1. Pay special attention on verse 7 of the same book.

It is my wish that we can all grow into the understanding of the Word of God and to actualise our purpose in the Church. May God bless us all.