

The Glory of the Church

1. The glory of the Church is revealed in her Divine election. (Eph. 1:3-6) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.*
2. The glory of the church is revealed by the great price, which was paid to redeem her from the penalty, power, and pollution of sin. (Eph. 1:7) *In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*
3. The glory of the Church is seen in the adoption of those who believe as children of God. (Rom. 8:15) *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*
4. The glory of the Church is displayed in the glorious inheritance that awaits her. To the Church has been given the Kingdom of God (Luke 12:32), eternal life (Mark 10:30; John 10:28; Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:15) and the promise of a new heaven and a new earth. (2 Pet. 3:13 Rev. 21:1)
5. The glory of the Church is manifested in the purpose and place she has in the plan of God. (Eph. 1:14) *That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus,* (Eph. 3:10) *To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God. The Church is no parenthetical afterthought in the mind of God. The Church occupies the pivotal place in the heart of God.*
6. The glory of the church is reflected in the majesty of her Master, the Lord Jesus Christ who is King of kings and Lord of lords. (Col. 1:15-19; Eph. 1:22,23)
7. The glory of the Church may be seen in the fact that she is endwelt by God the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 1:13,13;17-19; 3:16) *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.*
8. The glory of the Church may be seen in her own intrinsic holiness. (Eph. 1:4; 2:10,21; 5: 26,27) *That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
9. The glory of the Church may be seen in her nearness to the presence of God. (Eph. 2:13,18; 3:12; Heb. 4:16) The Church has the ear of heaven. *Let us therefore come*

boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

- 10.** The glory of the Church may be seen in the fact that to her was entrusted the gospel. (Eph. 1:9; 3:2-5) God has not entrusted the gospel to business, nor to the government or even to religious auxiliary organizations, or specialized ministries however good all of these things may be. The gospel is given to the Church. Only the Church has a right to say that God *having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He hath purposed in Himself.*

*I love thy Church, O God!
Her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye,
And graven on thy hand.*

*For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers shall ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.*