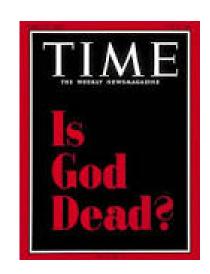
# What Can Destroy A Local Church?

- 1. God. 1 Tim.1:17
  - a. Eternal (King of ages)
  - b. Immortal (imperishable)



#### Earlier:

'God is dead' - Nietzsche.

20 years later:

'Nietzsche is dead' - God.

- 1. God. 1 Tim.1:17
- 2. Truth. 1 Pt.1:22-25
  - □ Ask people which part of Bible they do not believe
    - 1. Adam and Eve
    - 2. Noah and Flood
    - 3. Jonah and Fish

- 1. God. 1 Tim.1:17
- 2. Truth. 1 Pt.1:22-25
- 3. Soul. Mt.10:28

'And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell'

- 1. God. 1 Tim.1:17
- 2. Truth. 1 Pt.1:22-25
- 3. Soul. Mt.10:28
- 4. Church universal
  - a. Mt.16:18, gates . . . Hades
    - 1) Gates: counsel; armies march forth
    - 2) Hades: conquered all things human (ls.14); will not prevail / overpower / defeat church...

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  - b. Hb.12:25-28, things shakeable vs things that cannot be shaken

#### Local churches can be destroyed

- 1. Their usefulness lost
- 2. Their relation to Christ severed
  - a. Corinth
  - b. Galatia
  - c. Revelation

#### I. What Cannot Destroy A Church?

#### 1. Persecution

- Ac.5:40-42
- 2 Co.11:24
  - Rejoice over pain and disgrace?
    - Supports truth claims.

### 2. Loss of building, property

- 1 Co.11:22, authorized, expedient, but not necessary
- Col.4:15
- Jn.4:21-24
  - Church is people, not material.
  - Family still family if lose house.

#### 3. Lack of funds

- Rv.2:9-10
- Rv.3:17
- 2 Co.9:6-7

#### 4. Becoming a minority

- Rv.3:4, 8
  - "How is the church doing...?"
  - Other than Jerusalem, we don't know size of NT churches.

## 5. Lack of popularity

- Acts 2:47, popularity did not last
  - Acts 8:1-4, Jewish persecution
  - Acts 12:1-3, civil persecution

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets – Lk.6:26

## I. What Cannot Destroy A Church? II. What Can Destroy A Church?

#### 1. False doctrine. (Gal.4)

8-11, observing days...

Once slaves of sin

GENTILES

19: Paul, the mother.
20, Paul, the doubter.

Now slaves to Law

Jews rejoice (10)

Paul fears (11)

#### 2. Brotherly hatred. (Gal.5:15)

- Figure of jungle:
  - Tooth and claw reign
  - Wild animals devour
  - Deadly struggle

Disobedience always finds a way
... and an excuse.

### 3. Impure lives. (Gal.5:19-21)

 Congregation may remain . . . but relation with Lord is finally severed

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world – Ph.2

#### 4. Laziness. (Gal.6:7-10)

- Mt.21:...41-43, faithlessness
- Jn.15:...6, fruitlessness
  - Does indifference destroy more churches than anything?
  - Spectator syndrome?

'Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God' – Rv.3:2

#### How to live our best for Him?

#### Each . . .

- Enters to worship, with enthusiasm
- Leaves with servant mentality
- Hungers for more knowledge
- Deeply concerned for lost
- Filled with brotherly love
- Sets morally pure example