

I WILL BE WITH YOU  
#452, Week of 1-7-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

Local churches should be groups of people with whom men and women may gather to draw near to God and meet with Him. God promised ancient Israel, “I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people” (Leviticus 26:11-12).

God fulfilled this promise when He sent His only Son into the world. “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, God with us” (Matthew 1:23). When Jesus Christ walked the dusty trails of Galilee, he was God with us.

Since Christ is no longer physically present with us, His church is the temple where God dwells. The apostle Paul teaches that God fulfills the ancient promise in the church, the gathering of God’s people. Paul says of the church, “We are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people’” (2 Corinthians 6:16).

When we worship with God’s people, where God is constructing a living temple, we have the unique opportunity to draw near to God, worship Him, learn from Him, and get a taste of the age to come.

-----

THE MARK OF GOD  
#453, Week of 1-14-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

Tattoos are popular. People want to have marks on their bodies identifying them with mom or dad, some other person, organization, or cause. There are also earrings, nose rings, ornaments piercing other body parts. The Bible forbids tattoos. “You shall not make any cuts in your body for the dead nor make any tattoo marks on yourselves: I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:28).

The Bible also speaks of the mark of the beast (Revelation 16:2). The beast is the image of the dragon or the devil (Revelation 13:1). Those bearing the mark of the beast have the unholy spirit. Their lives are characterized by the deeds of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). Tattoos are a physical mark. The mark of the beast is spiritual. It relates to all we do and all we think (Revelation 20:4).

Some tattoos may be attractive. We may enjoy living like the devil. God marks us in another way. The apostle Paul exclaims it is God “who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge” (2 Corinthians 1:22). A seal authenticates. God places the Holy Spirit on His people as a seal of authentication. Paul speaks of “the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were

sealed” (Ephesians 4:30). The fruit of the Spirit makes the seal or mark of God quite visible (Galatians 5:22-23).

-----

## THE UNITY OF THE BIBLE

#454, Week of 1-21-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

The Bible is one book with one major message written over a period of 1600 years. The unity of the Bible is one of its marvels. The patriarch Abraham is a prime example. God gave Abraham a tremendous promise. “In you all the families of the earth will be blessed” (Genesis 12:3). The Bible says, “Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). We read this in the very first book of the Old Testament of the Bible.

Abraham becomes a model for New Testament believers. The apostle Paul teaches, “The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying ‘All the nations will be blessed in you’” (Galatians 3:8). The ancient promise God gave Abraham is the gospel. God fulfilled this gospel promise by sending Christ into the world.

Those who believe the promise of God regarding Christ follow the example of Abraham. As Paul again says, “So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer” (Galatians 3:9). Not only so, “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise” (Galatians 3:29).

The gospel of Christ binds the Bible together. If you catch this theme, you see the Bible’s unity. The Bible steps out of history into your heart.

-----

## WHO IS THE KING OF GLORY?

# 455 Week of 1-28-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

Nebuchadnezzar ruled the world from Babylon. The Greeks became predominant under Alexander the Great. The Roman Empire held sway in the First Century. Cults grew around emperor worship. Citizens gladly made the confession, “Caesar is Lord.”

All of this was contrary to the ancient Jewish faith and to Christianity. Three Jewish boys, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, refused to bow down to the golden image erected by Nebuchadnezzar. The king had them thrown into a fiery furnace (Daniel 3:8-26).

Christians faced a similar fate if they refused to worship Caesar. To confess the emperor as Lord was contrary to their faith. Romans 10:9 makes this abundantly clear. “If you confess with your

mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” To place someone above Christ as an object of worship was blaspheme.

Psalm 24:8 asks a question and immediately gives the answer. “Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.” Once again, this Lord is Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9). And the Bible maintains, “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13, Joel 2:32).

The words of Christ are therefore far better than the sayings of earthly kings that pass away. “The word of the Lord endures forever” (1 Peter 1:25).

-----