

The Disappearing Church

September 18, 2016

So far, we've been considering

- Cultural influences
- Historical shifts
- Which are often troubling—or exciting—depending upon your age and viewpoint

What's the Lord's Perspective?

- The Church—Christ's Body—is Eternal
 - Ephesians 1.1-23
 - Ephesians 2.19-22
 - Ephesians 3.8-21

- The Church is unconquerable
 - Matthew 16.13-19
 - “Gates of Hell” is not about the Church attacking Satan; it’s about being impervious to death
 - The death of Christ is no obstacle to it: Matthew 16.20-21
 - The spiritual death of sinners is no obstacle to it: Ephesians 1.15-2.7
 - The physical death of believers is no obstacle: I Corinthians 15.29. The context leads to the conclusion that Paul has in mind the perpetuity of Christianity

- The Church is made up of individuals
 - Who are parts of Christ's Body. I Corinthians 12.1-27
 - Who are parts of a great temple. Ephesians 2.19-22; I Peter 2.4-10