

THE CHURCH THE BODY

I see a tall building on a hill, dominating a town. It is empty much of the time and there are few visitors. Can this be where Jesus lives? Not unless it is filled with people – faithful Christians worshipping and repenting of their sins. It is the people who make the church.

If Christ was simply spirit it would be very hard to worship him. Our faith would come and go. But we see God in all our fellow believers and gain strength from their faith as well as our own. We are everyone an ambassador for Christ. Christ sees in us his substance.

He will come again in the flesh but until then the Church is as good as a living gospel. God spreads his message among believers just as a glow spreads over the body. Good health, good Christianity is seen wherever the Church flourishes.

The outward show of the Church is not nearly as important as the inner feeling. Fine hymns attract to the glory of the composer rather than God himself. A whole service may detract from true worship however graceful.

By their deeds he shall know them, Christian good works don't get the publicity they deserve, almost in accordance with Christ's wishes. But I believe the Church needs a considerable boost when it comes to proclaiming the message from the rooftops. The Church should not be shy. Deny thyself? Not when it comes to standing up for the right. Spiritual love is forgiving but principles should be firm. Divisive principles are no good at all. Synod sees the opposing points of view but some how (and after much deliberation?) synod must be united.

I don't believe we have only the Bible to go by. Great minds have unearthed great truths in the two thousand years, since they are all inspired by Christ Himself. We don't have to rely entirely on the gospels for the word of God. Rely on revelation as it affects the wise and devout believer.

The Church is not therefore a building so much as a group of people world wide and all aiming in the same direction. Christ breathes his inspiration upon us and we do his will. The love of God is reflected in everything we do.... or should do. Praise be to His holy name.

Richard Jameson

