

# UNTOMBED

Bryan Matthew Dockens, 2020

As day is breaking, their hearts are aching.  
The women approach in sorrow.  
With spices prepared, they're still unaware:  
Joseph's tomb was only borrowed.

The earth is quaking, and guards are shaking.  
Angels the scene now controlling.  
Struck with awful dread, men fall as though dead.  
His body, they'll lie, was stolen.

Women arriving; news most surprising:  
Angels announce He's gone away.  
The stone, they rolled it. Linen cloth folded.  
*"Come, see the place where the Lord lay."*

But in the garden, whose heart could harden?  
*"Woman, why are you weeping?"*  
Jesus says, *"Mary!"* No longer wary,  
Faith in the risen Lord keeping.

The women give word, and disciples heard:  
Christ Jesus rose up from the grave!  
So Peter and John to the tomb are gone,  
Seeing for themselves He can save!

Hours later that day, keeping foes away,  
Doors are locked where disciples went.  
The Savior comes through, saying, *"Peace to you!"*  
To preach forgiveness they are sent.

Yet, Thomas the twin was not present when  
Jesus appeared to the others.  
I'll touch the nail prints, or I'm not convinced.  
Christ shows Himself to this brother!

We are not witness, nor are we witless;  
We need not see to believe.  
Scriptures were written, hearts to be smitten,  
Apostolic word to receive!

– Continued from page 1 –

Misapprehending the point Christ was making, some Christians have concluded there is nothing holy about the building in which a church assembles, so there should be no limits as to what happens in such places. That is an exaggeration resulting in unauthorized practices.

In fact, the church is holy. *"Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish"* (Ephesians 5:25-27). To *"sanctify"* is to be made holy. The word *"holy"* is defined by Thayer as *"set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively His."*

The church being sanctified and holy, it is a people set apart to God going about work that is also set apart to God. That work is to glorify God (Ephesians 3:21), to proclaim God's wisdom universally (Ephesians 3:10-11), being the pillar and ground of the truth (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15), to edify itself (Ephesians 4:11-16), and to relieve needy members (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:1; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5:16).

If the church and, necessarily, its work, are holy, then the facilities it acquires to fulfill that holy work are also holy – set apart to God. A church is not commanded in Scripture to own property, but if it is expedient for conducting its work, the church may do so. When a church uses its treasury, amounting from freewill offerings of the saints in first day of the week collections in church, to acquire a permanent meeting house for carrying out its authorized functions as a church, then that meeting house is holy. It is not *"Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground"* (Exodus 3:5) holy, but it is holy nonetheless. It has been set apart to God for the work of glorification, the work of evangelism, the work of edification, and the work of relieving saints. It does not have to be bought or built at all, but if it is, it is holy. Before it is obtained by the church, it is not holy, and after it is sold, it is not holy, but while the church possesses it, it is holy. It does not need to be fancy with stained glass or a steeple and can be quite modest and plain, but still holy – set apart to God. Therefore, it is not a place to buy and sell (John 2:13-17), neither a place to eat and drink (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:22, 34), but a place to worship, preach, encourage, and share because those are the proper missions of the church and the church is holy.

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.**

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"A stupid man's report of what a clever man says is never accurate because he unconsciously translates what he hears into something that he can understand."

– Bertrand Russell

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 13**

**MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

**HOLY NONETHELESS**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Under the Old Testament, God had put His name in Jerusalem, specifically in the temple, the house which Solomon built Him (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 9:3). Jews understood this, but the Samaritans were people who knew to fear Jehovah, which would include worship in Jerusalem, having been instructed by Levitical priests because they occupied Israel's inheritance, yet who continued in their idolatries, regardless (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 17:28-41). When one of them, the woman at the well in Sychar, realized Jesus was a prophet (John 4:19), she sought truth from Him concerning this matter. The Samaritan woman said, "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship" (20). To this, Jesus replied, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father... But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (21, 23-24). Whereas the previous Covenant required worship in Jerusalem and Samaritans knew as much, but refused to submit, the Lord explained that, in the coming hour, there would be no particular place set for worship. Worship is in spirit and in truth, not in Jerusalem, per se.

– Continued on page 3 –

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

505-864-0282

rgvcoc@gmail.com

Box 989, Belén, NM 87002

www.RGVChurchOfChrist.org

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Facebook.com/RGVChurchOfChrist