

Destined for Greatness

It was built for an international exposition – erected in 1889 as the entrance arch to the World’s Fair – and both critics and citizens called it monstrous.

They loudly demanded the structure be torn down as soon as the exposition closed. Yet from the moment its architect first conceived the iron lattice structure, he took pride in it and loyally defended it. He knew it was destined for greatness.

Today, standing 1,063 feet tall (about the same height as an 81-story building), it is regarded as one of the architectural wonders of the modern world. It has become the primary landmark of Paris, France, and one of the most recognizable edifices in the world. The architect was Alexander Gustave Eiffel. His famous structure? The Eiffel Tower.

Jesus Christ was loyal to another structure He designed. He entrusted the building of the church to an unlikely band of disciples, whom He defended, prayed for and prepared to take the gospel to the far-reaching corners of the world.

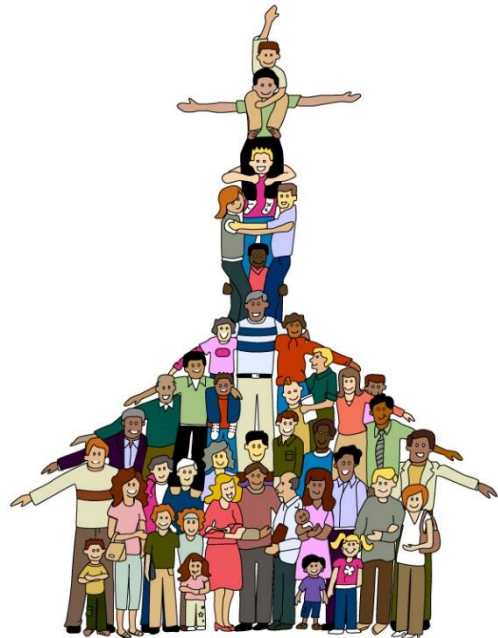
To outsiders, the disciples of Jesus probably had a reputation as ignorant, politically weak, religiously untrained, disorganized, and in moments, blundering idiots. But Jesus, the architect of the church, knew His structure was destined for greatness.

Being a Christian has never been “politically correct,” and today we are realizing that fact in its consequences worldwide more than ever. Critics through the years have compiled a list of derogatory names to call the church and its members. Christians – in this year, 2015 – are being vilified, persecuted, beheaded and burned alive for their faith and refusal to deny Christ.

In spite of criticism, however, we are instructed to carry on. We are to persist in building the body of Christ until His return.

As we build, we are assured we will please God and He will bless us.

The famous Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius, once consoled a young musician who had received a bad review by saying, “Remember, son, there is no city in the world where they have erected a statue to a critic.”



(more)

Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18)."

One day, the church will be the one left standing. What will the critics say then?

No matter what comes your way today, as a believer be proud you are a member of the church of Jesus Christ.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Matthew 5:11-12 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter