

September 7, 2018



### **Ministry Jottings: No Statues to Critics**

**“Rejoice and be glad, because great is our reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” –Matthew 5:12**

**It was built for an international exposition about 130 years ago and called “monstrous” by both critics and citizens. They loudly demanded the structure be torn down as soon as the exposition closed. Yet from the moment its architect first conceived the structure, he took pride in it and loyally defended it. He knew it was destined for greatness. Today it stands as one of the architectural wonders of the modern world. It has become the primary landmark of Paris, France. The architect was Alexander Gustave Eiffel, and his famous structure – the Eiffel Tower.**

**Jesus Christ was loyal to another structure – the Church. 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 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.**

**Being a Christian has never been “politically correct.” There has been much criticism through the years. In spite of criticism, we are instructed to carry on. We are to persist in building the body of Christ. The 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.” No matter what comes your way today, be proud you are a member of Jesus’ Church!**

**In Christ's grace,**

***Pastor Deb***