

## THE CHURCH THE CALLED OUT

### Introduction:

1. The New Testament uses many terms and concepts to describe the church of Christ.
2. As members of the church, it is important for us to know what the church is – and what the Lord expects it to be.
3. Thus, as we study these divine descriptions of the church, we will learn how we are to conduct ourselves individually and as a congregation of God's people.
4. Before we discuss the specific terms of designation, there are a few fundamental facts that must be considered.
5. First, we must understand the role of the church in God's plan of redemption...
  - a. Eternal purpose
  - b. Connected to the crucifixion
  - c. Result of the resurrection
  - d. Established on Pentecost

### I. Called Out of the World

(1 Peter 2:9)

- A. The Greek word that is translated as 'church' is *ekklesia* (ἐκκλησία).
  1. This word means, "A calling out; called out; a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly."
  2. In relation to the Christian, this word has a deeper and spiritual meaning.
  3. It refers to those who have been called out of sin and into fellowship with God.
  4. As a group, they assemble to worship God and to edify and enjoy fellowship with one another.
  5. Thus, the church is a body of believers, not a building or meeting place (cf. Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1; 11:22, 26; 1 Cor. 1:2; 4:17; etc.).
- B. The church is made up of Christians who have been called out of darkness (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. Eph. 5:8, 11).
- C. To be called out of darkness is to be removed from the power and realm of Satan (Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18).
- D. Thus, it is to be called out of the world (cf. John 14:30; 15:19; 17:14-16; 18:36; Rom. 12:2; Gal. 1:4; 6:14; Jam. 4:4; 2 Pet. 2:20; 1 John 2:15-17).

### II. Called Into the Church

(1 Peter 2:5, 10)

- A. When one is called out of the world, he is called into the Lord's church.
- B. There are only two kingdoms that exist in the universe – the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God.
- C. Those called out of darkness are called into light; those who were not a people become the people of God (1 Pet. 2:9-10).
- D. The people of God are described as living stones that make up a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5).
- E. The Christian must learn to appreciate the true nature of the church.

### III. Called by the Gospel

(1 Peter 1:22 – 2:3)

- A. The way one is called out of the world and into the church is by the Gospel of Christ.
- B. Souls are purified from sin by obeying the truth – the Gospel.

## Biblical Description of the Church

Lesson Five

1 Peter 2:4-10

- C. This obedience results in “being born again” – sins removed in baptism (cf. John 3:3-5).
- D. Thus, the child of God must continue to intensely crave the pure Word of God.
- E. God continues to call and to guide by means of His Word.
- F. Fellowship is maintained by learning and obeying His Word (cf. 2 Pet. 2:20-22).