

THE CHURCH

THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

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. 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
5. Descriptive Designations of the Church:
 - a. "The Called Out"
 - b. The Body of Christ
 - c. The Bride of Christ
 - d. The Kingdom of Christ

- I. The Israel of God (Galatians 6:16)
- A. In the Old Testament, God formed the children of Israel into a nation.
 - B. That nation was a kingdom that belonged to and was ruled by God (Exo. 19:6; cf. Matt. 8:10-12).
 - C. When the New Testament came into effect, the Old Testament was completed and fulfilled; thus, it ended (cf. Rom. 7:4; Col. 2:14; Heb. 10:9; etc.).
 - D. Under the New Covenant, the church is called "the Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16).
 - E. Thus, the church is the kingdom of Christ (Gal. 3:7-9, 26-29; 1 Pet. 2:9).

- II. The Kingdom of Christ (Matthew 16:18-19)
- A. The Greek word for 'kingdom' means, "Power, sovereignty, or rule."
 - B. Thus, this word has many applications in the New Testament.
 1. The power of God is called the 'kingdom' (Matt. 12:28).
 2. Heaven is called the 'kingdom' (Matt. 25:34; Luke 13:28; 2 Tim. 4:18; 2 Pet. 1:11).
 3. The church is called the 'kingdom' (Matt. 11:11; etc.).
 - C. Proof that the church is the kingdom of Christ:
 1. Both began in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-4; Acts 2)
 2. Both began in the 'last days' (Joel 2; Acts 2)
 3. Both began in the days of the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:44; Acts 2)
 4. Both have the same terms of admission (Matt. 16:18-19; Acts 2:38, 47; cf. John 3:5)
 5. Both have the same members (Col. 1:13)
 6. Both have the same memorial (Matt. 26:29; 1 Cor. 11:20ff)
 - D. Thus, the church is the kingdom of Christ.

- III. The Nature of the Kingdom (Luke 17:20-21)
- A. The church is a spiritual kingdom (John 12:34; 6:15; Matt. 27:42; Luke 24:21; Acts 1:6; Luke 17:20-21; John 18:36).

Biblical Description of the Church

Lesson Eight

Matthew 16:13-19

- B. The church is a glorious kingdom.
 - 1. Because of its King (Psa. 2:6-7; 110:1)
 - 2. Because of its law (Jam. 1:25)
 - 3. Because of its banner (Gal. 3:13; 6:14)
 - 4. Because of its citizens (Gal. 4:4-7; 1 John 3:1; Rom. 8:16-17)
- C. The church is a peaceable kingdom (Isa. 2:4; 9:6-7; 11:6; John 13:35; Matt. 18:4; 20:25-26).
- D. The church is a victorious kingdom (Matt. 16:18; Rev. 11:15; 17:14).
- E. The Christian must live as a citizen of God's glorious kingdom (Phil. 3:20; 1:27).