

## THE CHURCH ITS ETERNAL DESTINY IN HEAVEN

### 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
  - e. The Saved
  - f. The House of God
  - g. The Temple of God
  - h. The Husbandry of God
  - i. The Army of God
  - j. The Pillar and Ground of the Truth

### I. The Christian Is Always a Part of the Church

- A. The church assembles upon the first day of the week (cf. Acts 20:7).
- B. But it is still the church every other day of the week – even when not in assembly!
  1. Thus, we do not "go to church" – we are the church.
  2. We do not "do church" – we are the church.
- C. We do not cease to be the church when we leave the assembly.
- D. We are the church every moment of every day of our lives!
  1. Thus, we must live as the church throughout our lives (1 Thes. 4:12; Titus 2:8; 1 Pet. 2:12).
  2. We must not live like the world because we are the church (2 Cor. 6:16-17; Eph. 4:17-20)!

### II. The Church Is Destined for Heaven

- A. The church is the eternal purpose of God (Eph. 3:10-11, 21).
- B. Thus, Jesus is the Savior of the church (Eph. 5:23-27).
- C. When the Lord returns, it is for His church (John 14:1-4).
- D. At the resurrection, the church will go to be with the Lord (1 Thes. 4:16-17).
- E. Thus, the kingdom will be delivered to the Father (1 Cor. 15:22-26).
- F. Put simply, the church will go to Heaven! (Cf. Rev. 21:1 – 22:7)
  1. 21:1-2 – Newness
  2. 21:3 – Fellowship
  3. 21:4 – Peace
  4. 22:1-5 – Life

## Biblical Description of the Church

Lesson Fifteen

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

- III. The Faithful Christian Will Receive the Reward
  - A. Because salvation is found in the church, only those who are members of the Lord's church will be in Heaven.
    - 1. One of us, or one of them (1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Thes. 1:6-7; Heb. 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:17)
    - 2. Within or without (Mark 4:11; 1 Cor. 5:12-13; Col. 4:5; 1 Thes. 4:12)
  - B. But, only the faithful members of the Lord's church will receive the reward.
    - 1. Acts 8:12-13, 18-24 – Simon the sorcerer
    - 2. Revelation 2:1-7 – church at Ephesus
    - 3. Revelation 3:1-6 – church at Sardis
  - C. Thus, God invites the sinner to become a part of the church.
  - D. And, He invites the wayward Christian to return to faithfulness.
  - E. "Whosoever will" may come and find salvation in the Lord (Rev. 22:12-17).