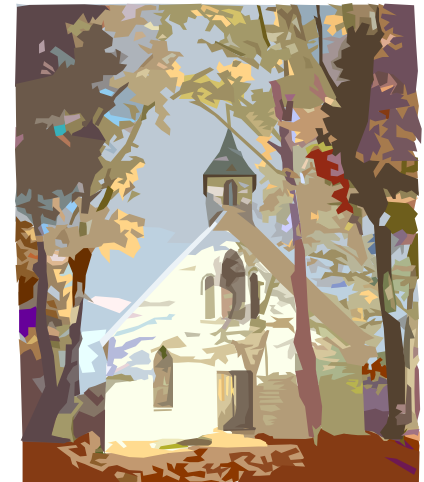


Lesson 9

THE LOCAL CHURCH



1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD “CHURCH?”

The word “church” means “that which is called out.” We are “called out” of the world system that we might freely worship God in Spirit and in Truth. We are “called out” of sin and service to the devil. We are “called out” of confusion (Babylon). In the New Testament, our word “church” is translated from the Greek word “ekklesia,” which means “an assembly of called out people” {Read Acts 2:39 and 1 Corinthians 1:9}

2. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO THE CHURCH?

A. He purchased (bought into existence) the CHURCH by the shedding of His blood when He died on the cross. {Read Acts 20:28}

Note the new Testament fulfillment: Matthew 1:23.

- B. He is the Head {Government} over the CHURCH, and we members of His Body. {Read Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:18}

- C. It is, therefore, His CHURCH. He is both architect and contractor. {Read Matthew 16:18}

3. IN WHAT TWO WAYS IS THE WORD “CHURCH” USED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

A. It is used to describe a LOCAL BODY of believers who have been CALLED OUT from the world and who are under the GOVERNMENT and AUTHORITY of the Lord Jesus Christ. {Read 1 Corinthians 1:2; Revelation 2:1; 2:8; 2:12; 2:18; 3:1; 3:7 and 3:14}

B. It is used to describe the “WHOLE CHURCH,” made up of all who have died after receiving God’s salvation through Jesus Christ, those living who have received salvation, and those whom God will call in the future.

4. HOW IS THE CHURCH DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE?

- A. It is the Body of Christ with Jesus Himself as the Head. {Ephesians 1:22-23 to the Church “a living organism.”}
- B. It is the Bride of Christ. {Ephesians 5:23,25,32 and II Corinthians 11:2}
- C. It is a Temple, a Building, a Habitation, a Dwelling-Place for God’s Spirit. {Ephesians 2:20 and I Corinthians 3:9-11, 16}

5. HOW DOES ONE GAIN ENTRANCE AND MEMBERSHIP INTO THE CHURCH?

- A. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as Savior is demanded. { Read John 3:36 and John 8:24 }
- B. Repentance and Water Baptism is required of all its members. {Read Acts2:38, 41}
- C. The members must be added to the Church by God. {Read Acts 2:47 and Acts 5:14}

6. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS AFTER THEY HAVE ENTERED THE CHURCH?

Like the believers in the early Church, **we must come to stay! Faithfulness proves we are genuine.** {Read Acts 2:42; John 8:31; and I John 2:19, 24 and Acts 5:14}

We are to joyfully submit ourselves to the discipline and training of local church leadership. {Read Hebrews 13:17 and Ephesians 4:11}

7. WHAT IS TO BE THE MISSION AND WORK OF THE CHURCH?

- A. To WORSHIP God and glorify Him on the earth. {Read Ephesians 1:4-6}
- B. To EVANGELIZE the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- C. To TRAIN its members, bring them to maturity in Christian experience and ability. {Read Ephesians 4:11-12}
- D. To BE THE WITNESS for Jesus Christ in the midst of a hostile world. {Read Acts 1:8}

8. HOW DO WE FIND “OUR PLACE” IN THE LOCAL CHURCH?

- A. We develop a burden or desire for some particular phase of service. {Matthew 6:33 and Psalm 37:4}
- B. Commit your way wholly to God. {Read Psalm 37:5} Bring a notebook to services and take notes from the message.
- C. Be faithful in attendance. {Read Acts 2:42} Complete the Catechism 1 Class.
- D. Read God’s Word regularly and pray. {Read Psalm 19:11, 105 and Romans 12:7}
- E. Commit you ministry to prayer, counsel with the pastors and wait for God to give you an opportunity.
- F. When the opportunity for the Laying on of Hands arises in the local Church, submit yourself for your ministry to be strengthened and confirmed. {Read 1 Timothy 4:14-15 and II Timothy 1:6}