

I. Objectives for all adult classes include

- To assist the student to grow toward full spiritual maturity (Heb 5: 12 – 14)
- To develop within the student a historical perspective of what has happened to the church since it's beginning (Book of Acts; Jer 6: 16)

Study of the word church

Greek word Kuriakos (belonging to the LORD) is probably the word that transliterates to church.

Greek word Ekklesia (the called out) is translated church. Ekklesia derives from Ekkaleo (Kaleo is to call out) – see Acts 22: 16 This word appears only 3 times in NT prior to Acts.

Another Greek word (Sunagoge) appears to refer to people from Israel or GOD'S people. This word means assembly or congregation. It transliterates into our English word synagogue.

1st time we see the Christian community referred to as Ekklesia to differentiate it from the Jewish community sunagoge is Acts 2: 47.

Sunagoge appears 57 times in NT with most of them in MMLJ. Ekklesia appears 106 times all but 2 being in Acts – Rev After the church is set up – sunagoge used to refer to Jews or even to Satan (Rev 2:9, 3:9)

II. The eternal purpose of the Church

Contextual study of Ephesians 3: 1-11

Vv 1-2 Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles

Vv 3-4 Note the 5 affirmations about the word of GOD

1. mystery – initially known only to GOD
2. revelation – revealed to inspired men. Revealed in stages see v. 5
3. wrote
4. read – the Greek word implies study! The defn – to know, to perceive accurately by reading. This makes two important points
 - a. their knowledge didn't come miraculously
 - b. Present Active Participle – continuous or repeated action
5. understand

v 5 Now revealed

v6 The mystery – GOD had done the seemingly impossible...reconciled and united the Jew and Gentile into same body – church – 1:22-23 and 4:4. Interesting to note v10 manifold – multicolored, variegated.

V9 from the beginning – see 1: 4-11, 2 Tim 1:9 and note premillennialists view

V10 Now – the church

V11 eternal purpose – always has and always will be

See Wayne Jackson's Notes from the Margin of My Bible

Prophecies of the Church

Do a contextual study of each of the 5 prophecies

Joel 2: 28-32

Mark 9: 1

Luke 24: 46-53

Isaiah 2: 1-3

Matthew 16: 13-19

With the Luke reference note the following points and see Acts

1. V. 48 witnesses Acts 1: 8
2. V. 49 promise of the Father Acts 1: 4
3. V. 49 tarry in Jerusalem Acts 1: 4
4. V. 47 beg of gospel outreach.....Acts 1: 8
5. V. 49 Power from on high Acts 1: 8
6. V. 51 Christ's ascension Acts 1: 9-11
7. V. 52 disciples return to Jerusalem Acts 1: 12
8. V. 53 their meeting in the temple Acts 2: 46

These prophecies can be grouped into 6 categories

Who

- Preaches
- Is the audience
- Supplies the message

What

When

Where

Who is Preacher? Peter Matthew 16

Who is the audience? All Nations Lk 24, Isa 2, Joel 2

Who supplies the message? Holy Spirit Joel 2, Luke 24, Mk 9

What is the message? Repentance and Remission of sins - Lk 24

Where? Jerusalem Joel 2, Lk 24, Isa 2

When? Last Days Joel 2, Isa 2

III. Note the fulfillment of all these prophecies occurs in Acts 2

2: 1-4	Who supplies message
: 5	Who is audience/Where
: 14	Who preaches
: 16-17	When
: 38	What

Note and begin to build a timeline for the church

700 BC	Isaiah and Joel prophecy
600 BC	Daniel prophecies the coming Kingdom (2:44)
30 AD	Pentecost

IV. The First Century Church

1. Church at Jerusalem 30 – 35 AD
From Pentecost to death of Stephen
About 5 years
Acts 2 – 7
Note 5: 16, 6:1ff, 6:7
2. The Expanding Church 35 – 50 AD
From death of Stephen to council at Jerusalem
About 15 years
Acts 8 – 15
Note 9: 43, 11:19
Paul's 1st miss. Journey (ch 13-14) expands to Antioch of Pisidia
Conversion of Cornelius in ch 10 – though the Jerusalem council is when the Gentile issue is really dealt with.
3. The Church among the Gentiles 50 – 66 AD
From Jerusalem council to death of Paul
About 16 years
Acts 15 to end of Acts
Paul's 2nd and 3rd miss. journeys and imprisonment at Rome.
4. The Latter Years of the New Testament Church 66 – 100 AD
From death of Paul to death of John
About 34 years
Probably around 100 AD

Discuss the Timeline noting the following dates

Pentecost	AD 30
Death of Stephen	AD 35
Jerusalem Council	AD 50
Death of Paul	AD 66
Destruction of Jerusalem	AD 71
Death of John	AD 100

V. Marks of the New Testament Church

It is necessary to examine these unique characteristics of the LORD'S church in order to understand the departures from truth that will begin to occur shortly afterwards.

1. Christ is the builder of the church.

Matt 16: 18

Only one – singularity of the church

See www.adherents.com for statistics

Is this what Jesus had in mind to build his church?

Discuss statement “there are saved people in all churches”.

Those who make this statement don't really believe it themselves. Use the Universalist Unitarian Church for example. This group claims to be a Christian church. Note the following things one does NOT have to believe in order to belong. That Jesus Christ is the Son of GOD, that Jesus was born of a virgin, that He performed miracles or that He was raised from the dead.

2. Christ is the foundation of the church.

Matt 16: 18

1st look at the English rendering “upon this rock I will build...”

Discuss the different interpretations

Christ and the fact He is the Son of GOD

Faith and the proclamation Peter just made

Christ’s teachings of great emphasis in Matthew

Peter himself – given that he was given the keys

Jesus just using a play on words

Peter – Petros – detached stone – small stone – John 1: 42

Rock – Petra – bedrock – foundation boulder – 7: 24, 25

Note Petroleum, petrology – Latin petro –crusts of earth

Acts 4: 11-12 Peter actually doing the talking here

1 Cor 3: 11

Eph 5: 23 Christ is the head of the church

Eph 2: 20 Apostles did play a role in the foundation but they were not it

1 Peter 2: 5-7

3. No source of authority except Christ and His Word.

Matt 28: 18

Note the two sources of authority – man and GOD – Matt 15

Col 3: 17

Note whatever, word or deed, all, by authority of

Rom 1: 16

2 Tim 3: 16-17

Reproof – rebuke for wrong behavior

Correction – not only above, but point way back to godly living

Instruction – positive training – not just the two above

No need for any creeds or manuals, etc

4. Names of the members/group have been designated by GOD.
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| Individuals | Acts 11: 26 | Acts 26: 28 | 1 Pet 4: 16 |
| | 11: 26 – were called – Khraymatidzo – to give divine information | | |
| | Note – use of disciple prior to and after this occasion | | |
| | See Isaiah 56: 3ff | | |
| Church of GOD | 1 Cor 1: 2, | Acts 20: 28 | |
| churches of Christ | Rom 16: 16 | | |
| Church of the Living GOD | 1 Tim 3: 15 | | |
| The Church | Acts 2: 47 | | |
| The body of Christ | Eph 1: 22 | | |
| The church of the first born | Heb 12: 23 | | |
| The kingdom of his dear son | Col 1: 13 | | |
| The household of GOD | Eph 2: 19 | | |
| The flock | 1 Pet 5: 3, | Acts 20: 28 | |
5. Contrary to Jewish tradition/Law of Moses – Christians met on the first day of the week.
Acts 20: 7

There are those that contend they were meeting on Saturday night.
Why would he use the Jewish method of time keeping in a Grecian city?
Even if you took this stance you would have to say they were not worshipping on Saturday but rather Sunday.

Scripture does not require Christians to observe the Sabbath

1. Sabbath was sign of Mosaic Covenant – Exo 31: 16-17. Christians under New Covenant – 2 Cor 3, Heb 8.
2. There is no NT command to keep the Sabbath
3. 1st command to keep Sabbath was time of Moses – Exo 20: 8
4. The Jerusalem Council – ch 15 – did not order Gentiles to keep Sabbath
5. Paul never cautioned Christians about breaking Sabbath
6. NT teaches Sabbath keeping was in opposition to the New Covenant – Rom 14: 5, Gal 4: 10, Col 2: 16

Worship was simple and spiritual – John 4: 24

6. The NT church engaged in the following acts of worship.
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| Word of GOD was taught | Acts 2: 42 | |
| LORD's Supper observed | 1 Cor 11: 26 | Acts 20: 7 |
| Congregational prayer | Acts 2: 42 | |
| They gave of their means | 1 Cor 16: 2 | |
| Singing | Col 3: 16 | Eph 5: 19 |

