



# The Church

- We will be teaching today from the bible.
- We are using the Amplified version- and of course - you can use the version that you prefer.
- The bible is the only real truth.
- It is the inspired word of God.
- God's truth comes to us by **revelation** from the bible as we meditate on His word.





# The Church

- Our subject for today is “The Church”
- When people are considering Christianity or when they become Christians, they may want to join a church where they can learn or grow in their faith.



# The Church

- Before we consider what the church is!
- Let us consider what the church is NOT.
- This may offend some people as they have grown up with fixed ideas, which maybe wrong.
- Today we will be taking our truth from the bible and not from man's ideas.



# The Church

- OK then – let us explore what the church is not.
- It is not the Roman Catholic Church.
- It is not the Mormon church, otherwise known as the Church of the Latter-Day Saints.
- It is not the church of the Jehovah witnesses.
- It is not the Anglican church.
- It is not the Church of Satan.
- It is not the Baptist church.
- It is not the Episcopalian church .
- It is not the Islamic church or mosque as they call it.



# The Church

- It is not an institution.
- It is not a building.
- It is not a denomination.
- It is not an organisation.
- It is not a religion.





# The Church

- What then are the aforementioned things.
- They are “the traditions of men”.
- They are what man has invented down the ages to represent their idea of The Church.
- They are organisations.
- Many, not all, of these organisations believe that they are the only ones who have the truth and that the others are in deception.
- Each of these religious institutions have different doctrines, different interpretations of “why we are here ” and “the purpose for mankind”
- Because of these differences - they can't all be right and conversely, they can't all be wrong.
- Each may contain some truth, and each may contain some error.
- **The REAL truth is what GOD says The Church is.**



# The Church

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- What then is "The Church"
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- Actually, the word "church" is a corruption of the original Greek word "kuriakos". When the bible as we know it today was translated into English, they used the wrong word.
- Kuriakos more accurately translates to "pertaining to the lord."
- In modern translations the miss translation of "church" appears many times and has come to mean building, institution, organisation, denomination, faith or religion, corporation.
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- ***All of this is incorrect – an error – a falsity.***



# The Church

- The correct word used in the original Greek text was "*Ecclesia*" which more accurately translates to "The called out ones"
- Well – WHO are "the called out ones?"
- "The Ecclesia" – the called out ones are PEOPLE.
- They are solely those who have accepted the substitute sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the full price for their salvation.
- They are those who have made Him Lord .
- They are those who have put Him in charge of their lives.



# The Church

- They are the “spiritually alive ones”.
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- Jesus says “ I am the only Way to God and the real Truth and the real Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:6
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- That means we cannot become a “called out one” by infant baptism, or by following mans religious tradition or ritual or by submitting to the pillars of so-called faiths.



# The Church

- The Church is all about people – but not just any people.
- It is about a gathering together of **believers**.
- Now there we see another word – namely, **believers**.
- They are those who have truly acknowledged who Jesus Christ is and who have asked Him to take His rightful place in their lives.
- If you don't understand that - then please watch our teaching on "Born Again"



# The Church

- So, we are talking about a group of believers who get together for fellowship, prayer, worship, ministry or discipleship.
- These groups of people are called assemblies.
- But these assemblies are not the church.
- They are part of something bigger.
- What **is** that something?



# The Church

- That something is “the Body of Christ”.
- All the believers, past, present and future make up the “Body of Christ” – which is the church.
- The body of Christ. Ephesians 4 : 12
- *His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), that they should do the work of ministering toward building up **Christ’s body (the church)**,*
- Jesus is the head. Colossians 1:18
- ***He also is the Head of His body, the church;** seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent].*



# The Church

- Now a group of believers may choose to meet regularly in what we call a “local church”
- In his three missionary journeys throughout Asia Minor Paul the Apostle set up numerous local churches.
- They were not independent – they were all part of something bigger – the body of Christ.



# The Church

- So where does that leave you?
- You may be looking for a place to go or a group of believers to fellowship with.
- You will need to ask God where He wants you to go
- - and you will need discernment, because not every group is sound.
- Some may be in error, and some may be practicing dead religion without the “life” of the Lord Jesus.



# The Church

- It may be that you are led to a particular fellowship and as you grow in revelation and maturity you may move on to a different group.
- It is important that we are joined in fellowship with like minded believers:-
  - so that we can be discipled and grow and
  - so that we can be supported and encouraged, and also
  - so that we can bless other people.



# The Church

- Jesus said:
- I am the way, the truth, and the **life**.
- It is important that we join a fellowship where there is life, that is - where the people are **born again** and therefore spiritually alive.
- Joining a church is not about practicing dead religion - just going through the motions.
- That is the outward form of Godliness but denying the real power.



# The Church

- In each local church there may be a mixture of people.
  1. Some believers who are under the Lordship of Christ and
  2. Some who think that because they faithfully go to church they are saved – that is not true
  - and
  3. Some who are searching for truth.
- Only group 1 are saved and thereby part of the body of Christ.



# The Church

- So, we see that The Church is the worldwide number of true believers who throughout history have and will make up the body of Christ.
- It's not an institution.
- We are the body – The Church
- And
- Jesus is the head



# The Church

- Now is the time to discover the Local Church.
- Please see the teaching that follows this one.

## The Local Church

Thank you for listening.