

# Work Of The Church (IV)

*What Is The Church?*

# I. Definition of Church

# “Church”

Acts 5<sup>11</sup> And great fear came on all the church and on all who heard of these things.

Acts 8<sup>1</sup> And Saul was consenting to his death. And at that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

# “Church” (disciples / saints)

Acts 9<sup>1</sup> Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest...

1 Co.1<sup>2</sup> To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

## “Church” (prayer / purchased)

Acts 12<sup>5</sup> Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

Acts 20<sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

# “Called” people

2 Th.2<sup>14</sup> to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Th.1<sup>4</sup> knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. <sup>5</sup> For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

# Septuagint

1 K.8<sup>14</sup> Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.

Ac.7:38 This is He who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us.

I. Definition of Church

II. NT Uses of Church

# Local

Acts 5<sup>11</sup> So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Vulgate: Et factus est timor magnus super **universa ecclesia** et in omnes qui audierunt haec.

[Used here in local church setting...]

# Local

## Ephesus – Asia

Assembly of  
**sinners** –  
Ac.19:32, 39, 41

≠

Assembly of  
**saints** –  
Ac.20:17, 28

Assemblies of  
**saints**  
– Rv.1:11

≠

Assembly of  
**saints at Ephesus**  
– Rv.1:11; 2:1-7

# Local

Acts 13<sup>1</sup> Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

1 Cor.14<sup>23</sup> Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

# Distributive

Acts 8<sup>1</sup> And Saul was consenting to his death. And at that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...<sup>3</sup> As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

I. Definition of Church

II. NT Uses of Church

III. Difference In Church  
Universal and Local

# Beginning

Acts 2<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 8<sup>1</sup> At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

# Entrance

Heb.12<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect

Acts 9<sup>26</sup> And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.

# Composition

Eph.5<sup>23</sup>

Rv.2<sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Rv.3<sup>1-4</sup>

# Fellowship

1 Jn.1<sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.* <sup>4</sup> And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

Ph.4<sup>15</sup> Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

# Number

Eph.4<sup>4</sup>

1 Cor.12<sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For in fact the body is not one member but many.

Rv.2-3

# Unity

Eph. 1<sup>22-23</sup>

1 Cor. 1<sup>10</sup>

3 Jn. <sup>9</sup> I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.

# Earthly organization

Eph.1<sup>22</sup>

Ph.1<sup>1</sup> To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons...

# Shepherds

Heb.13<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Acts14<sup>23</sup> So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 20<sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock . . .

# Work (collective)

Universal: all churches never sent funds to common treasury.

Local: Ph.4<sup>15</sup> Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

# Assembling

No universal assemblies of churches...

Local: 1 Cor.14<sup>23</sup> Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

Heb.10<sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

# Treasury

No universal treasury.

Local: 1 Cor.16<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: <sup>2</sup> On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. <sup>3</sup> And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

# Effect of death

Ph.1<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live *is Christ, and to die is gain.* <sup>22</sup> But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup> For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. <sup>24</sup> Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. <sup>25</sup> And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith.

# Effect of death

Rv.3<sup>21</sup> To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Local: Ac.8<sup>1</sup> At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. <sup>2</sup> And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

I. Definition of Church

II. NT Uses of Church

III. Difference In Church U. & L.

IV. Makeup of Church  
Universal

# Denominations?

Jn.17<sup>20</sup> I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one...

Jn.17<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth

# Churches?

Ac.2<sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them...*

<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

# Christians?

1 Co.5<sup>1</sup> It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! <sup>2</sup> And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

Rv.3<sup>1-4</sup>

# Christians?

Ac.8<sup>39</sup> Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

Ac.9<sup>26</sup> And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.

3 Jn.<sup>9-10</sup>