

THE CHURCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Old Testament promised a new people, a Messiah, a kingdom that would last forever. All that is fulfilled in Jesus Christ and the Church. The book of Acts quotes from the Old Testament to acknowledge the church is the New Covenant, the kingdom. Paul teaches this in Romans, Galatians, Hebrews, Corinthians. What were Jesus' parables of the Kingdom about but the spiritual kingdom--the church. He told Peter he would give him the keys to the Kingdom and he opened it on Pentecost. The terms kingdom of heaven and God are interchangeable. The kingdom is the rule of Christ in our hearts right now in the Church. Jesus said 'my kingdom is not of this world' Jn 18:36, He rejected the idea of a political king. He said the hearts of children are such as the "kingdom." New Testament teaches the church and the kingdom are the same. Acts 19:8, 14:22, 20:25-27, 28:23 Col 1:13, I Pet 2:9 Rom 14:17, I Cor 15:50. Before Pentecost the kingdom spoken of as in the future, afterwards, it is in the present. Christ does not have two separate kingdoms. Certainly the church will last into eternity, and as the Bridegroom, Christ, comes for His Bride, the Church, to grant the eternal reward. There is one Church, not a future political kingdom of Jews. Gal 3:27-29

THE CHURCH

The Greek word "ekklesia" literally means "the ones who have been called out."

Founded by Christ Matt 16:18 and built on His foundation, Eph 2:19,20 Col 1:18-24 I Cor 3:11

Established on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem as prophecy Is 2:1-4 Micah 4:1-2

Foretold by Jesus Acts 1:4-8

The church comes after the Gospel facts- the sacrificial death of Jesus, burial and Resurrection

Entrance into the Church comes through

Belief; Mark 16:15-16, Acts 8:12 ; Repentance, Acts 2:38, 17:30 Confession; Rom 10:9-10, Acts 8:37; Baptism; Matt 28:18-20, Acts 22:16, Rom 6:3-4 I Pet 3:21;

Terms for the Church--- Church of God, Church of Christ, Body of Christ, Church of the Firstborn ones. Terms for members- Saints, Disciples, Brethren, Children, Servants, Household,

Name for God's People- Christian Acts 11:26 Divinely called I Pet 4:16

Ordinances of the Church (Commanded sacred ceremonies) Baptism and the Lord's Supper -- Communion was on the first day of each week, to remember Christ's death, I Cor 11:23-26 Acts 2:42 , Acts 20:7 Important to keep us under the blood of Christ.

Support of the Church comes through offerings. I Cor 16:2 I Tim 5:17-19 II Cor 9:5-15

Organization of the Church- Elders or Bishops to oversee or shepherd Acts 20:28; I Pet 5:1-3, I Tim 3:5 Deacons to serve, Acts 6:1-6 I Tim 3:8-13

Rules for Faith and Practice. The Word of God, The Inspired Scriptures.

II Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12, John 16:8-13 Heb 1:1-2

Mission of the Church- To equip the saints for service.
To worship and glorify the Lord
To serve and encourage others
Honor Christ with our life of ethics
To evangelize the World, making other disciples.

Eph 4:11-16; Matt 28:18-20, Heb 13:1-2, 16, Gal 5:22-25 , Col 1:25, James 1:19-27 I John 4:7-9 Matt 23: 37-40, Rom 15:4-6, Phil 2:1-11 John 17: 18-21 II Tim 4:2-3 Rev 2:10

