**R1024 Rumination for September 08, 2024**

The **T**heme: The **Church** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext:  *Upon this rock I will build My* ***church****.* Mt. 16:18

The **T**hots:

Intro. Do you go to Church? What do you understand by the word, “*church*”? The Church of England is contemplating dropping the word “Church” and substituting “Community” or such equivalent terms to be more **A**ffirmative in its **A**pproach to Society and its **A**cceptance to the Community **A**round. Sadly, Aliens are taking over their historic buildings (*churches*!) and converting them into their own religious Assembly meeting places!

And recently the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church just visited **I**ndonesia to sign a joint Agreement with the **I**mam of the **I**stiqlal Mosque, the largest in SE Asia, to foster religious harmony between the two groups and **A**ddressing global issues as well.

Now what does the Bible teach about ***Church***?

1. **Its Origin – Gk. *ekklesia*.**
2. In Greek **C**ulture, it referred to an official gathering of its **C**itizens **C**alled together.
3. Its Biblical **C**onnotation: It is a **C**alled-out Assembly of God’s Saints, thus, I Cor. 1:2

*Unto the* ***C****hurch of God which is at* ***C****orinth, to them that are* ***S****anctified in* ***C****hrist Jesus,* ***C****alled to be* ***S****aints, with all that in every place* ***C****all upon the name of Jesus* ***C****hrist our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

1. In the **C**lassical Septuagint, the Greek *ekklesia* translates a Hebrew word in the OT to indicate a **C**eremonial assembly of God’s **C**ovenant people, Israel.
2. The **C**hoice of *ekklesia* in the NT to refer to the **C**hristian **C**hurch points to a **C**alled-out Assembly of **C**hristians *out of darkness into His marvellous light.* I Pet. 2:9
3. **Its Occurrences.**
4. Its first **O**ccurrence in the N. T. - *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock*

*I will build My* ***church****; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* Mt. 16:18

1. It **O**ccurs three times in the Gospels. Mt. 16:18; 18:17 (2x)
2. It is the **O**nly translation for *ekklesia* in the Acts, Epistles and Revelation.
3. **Its Occasions.**
4. It is used of the Body of **C**hristians as a **C**orporate body of living people. Mt. 18:17

*And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church,*

*let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

1. It is used of God’s people as a whole **C**ommunity, e.g. of a small number met in homes. Rom. 16:5

*Likewise greet the church that is in their house.*

1. It also refers to **C**hurches in large **C**ities.
2. [*Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem…* Acts 11:22*.*](https://app.logos.com/books/LLS%3AKJV1900/offsets/5727663?reference=bible%2Bkjv.65.11.22&resourceVersion=2019-09-24T19%3A56%3A58Z)
3. *Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers…* Acts 13:1
4. *Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus…* I Cor. 1:2
5. As well as a large geographical **C**ity of **C**hurches as of Asia or Galatia. I Cor. 16:1, 19
6. *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches in Galatia…*
7. *The churches* ***in*** *Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla…with the church that is in their house.*
8. *The seven churches which are \*****in*** *Asia… \** Note: “*at*” or “*in*” **not** *of* Asia.Rev. 1:4, 11, 20

Note: *it’s never used of a building, e.g. many people are leaving the church so that it is becoming empty!*

1. **Its Oneness – its Members and their Obligations to One Another and to Christ:**
2. It is the **U**niversal Church of Christ, the church of God… I Cor. 12:12a,b

*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many,*

*are one body*

1. It is the **U**nited **B**ody of Christ – *As the body is one, and hath many members…so also is Christ.* I Cor. 12:12c
2. Hence, Christ is the **H**ead of the Body. Col. 1:18

*That in all things He might have the preeminence…And He is the Head of the body, the church…*

1. And we are all Members of this Body; hence, every member has a **F**unction to **F**ulfil.

*For the body is not one member, but many.* I Cor. 12:14

*But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him.* I Cor. 12:18

1. He is the **H**ead and “**H**usband” of the Church – *even as Christ is the head of the church…*Eph. 5:23
2. Hence, *the* ***h****usband is the* ***h****ead of the wife*
3. ***H****usbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;* Eph. 5:25
4. Wives submit to your own **H**usband – Eph. 5:24

*Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

1. It has the **U**nction of the Holy Spirit in the Sanctified Believer as the Temple of the Lord. 1 Cor 3:16, 17

 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

*If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye* *are.*

1. **Its Ordinance –** **and Obedience to Remember the Lord at the Lord’s Supper.** I Cor. 11:24-26

*And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till He come.*

**Points to Ponder:** *The* ***Church’s*** *Foundation is Jesus* ***C****hrist, our* ***L****ord, and we are the* ***L****iving Stones built on it.*