

Lesson 2 - By D.B. Ray

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Page 37 - The Church Defined

Greek word "ekklesia" is rendered "Church" in the New Testament.

- Ekklesia defined: An assembly; congregation of persons called out from among the people for a specific purpose.
- Liddell and Scott defined ekklesia: An assembly of citizens summoned by the crier, the legislative assembly.
- Dean Trench says of the ekklesia: "The ekklesia, as all know, was the lawful assembly in a free Greek city of all those possessed of the rights of citizenship, for the transaction of public affairs."
- Ed. Robinson says, "Ekklesia, a convocation, assembly, congregation. In the literal sense, a popular or rather assembly composed of persons legally summoned."
- Lexicographers and critics agree substantially. The meaning of Ekklesia, or Church, demands an assembly of believers, called out from the world.

Page 37-38 – Ekklesia Defined

The word "ekklesia" comes from two Greek words "Ek" and "Kalein"

- Ek means "out of" and -Kalein mean "to call together"
- With this in mind, Ekklesia means: The Called Out, or a Called Out Assembly
- The definition of "ekklesia" means it could never refer to a hierarchy like the Catholic, Lutheran, or Presbyterian sort of organizational structures.

Page 38 - Uses of Ekklesia in the New Testament

This word is used 115 times in the New Testament

- Used in the singular tense to refer to a local congregation 76 times
- Used in the plural tense to refer to local congregations 36 times
- Used 3 times to refer to a worldly group of people; assembly or mob, Acts 19:39
- It is abundantly clear that the primary and literal meaning of the word ekklesia is assembly.
- Describing the institution of Christ, it simply means: **Christ's assembly, called out from the world to execute His laws.**

Page 39 - Literal Bible Definition of the New Testament Church

A Church of Christ is an assembly of baptized believers joined together in the doctrine and fellowship of the gospel.

- This definition has been called "Exhaustive, Final, and Defies Criticism"
- It speaks of believers, baptized, joined together and hence a Church.
- Notice what joins these baptized believers is their belief and practice of doctrine.

Page 40 - Definition of Church Removes Idea of Authorized Hierarchy

- Authority must be with the assembly, Not with any human head, pope or others
- There can be No ruling group of elders as part of the assembly; all are equal
- Associations are servants of the Churches Not the other way around
- Elders /deacons are servants of the Church who leading by example, 1 Pet 5:1-3

Page 40 - The Kingdom is the Organized Government; Jesus Christ is Sole Ruler

- Based on previous definitions, we see the Church and Kingdom are correlative
- The organic Kingdom of Jesus Christ does Not exist without the Churches.
- Likewise, the Churches cannot exist without the Kingdom.
- The Kingdom of Christ is always mentioned in the singular in New Testament

Page 41 - Revelation 11:15

In this verse we find the phrase, "the kingdoms of this world are become the *KINGDOMS* of our Lord and of His Christ."

- The term "*Kingdoms*" was added by the translators;Not in the original Greek.
- Every reference in the Bible to the Kingdom uses the singular except this one time and it is in italics meaning the translators added it.

Page 41-42 – The Mount of Transfiguration

This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.

- Peter suggested to build three tabernacles: 1) Law 2) Prophets 3) Christ
- The Law and Prophets were till John, after that time Christ set up His Kingdom
- - Jesus Christ is the only Law-Giver and Ruler in His own Kingdom.
- - We are taught that we need to hear Him / hear His word, Matt 17:5

Page 42 - Matthew 28:18-20

The Church was instructed to observe whatsoever the Lord had commanded.

- Nothing is to be taught as binding upon men's conscience that has Not been commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ; the sole lawgiver in His Kingdom.
- The NT contains the laws, ordinances and commandments of the King.
- The NT is the Lord's last will and testament.
- Those who add to this code of laws do so at their own peril.

QUESTIONS for REVIEW

1. Define "Ekklesia"
2. Based on the word "Ekklesia" describe the institution of Christ; His Church.
3. What is the meaning of the Literal Biblical Definition of "Church"?
4. What effect does the definition of "Church" have on authorized hierarchies?
5. What is the relationship between the Lord's Church and His Kingdom?
6. Over how many Kingdoms does the Lord sit as King?
7. Explain why "Kingdom" has a "s" added in Revelation 11:15.
8. Based on Matthew 28:18-20, what is the New Testament?