

THE CHURCH (EKKLESIA)  
Biblical Words  
Banska Bystrica, 17th May 2020

**Mt 16:18** καὶ ἐγὼ δέ σοι λέγω ὅτι σὺ εἶ Πέτρος, καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρᾳ οἰκοδομήσω μου τὴν ἐκκλησίαν καὶ πύλαι ᾗδου οὐ κατισχύσουσιν αὐτῆς. <sup>19</sup> δώσω σοι τὰς κλεῖδας τῆς βασιλείας τῶν οὐρανῶν, καὶ ὃ ἂν δήσῃς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἔσται δεδεμένον ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, καὶ ὃ ἂν λύσῃς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἔσται λελυμένον ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς

**Mt 16:18-19** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

- past topics: ▶ Scripture; ▶ Law; ▶ Gospel; ▶ Sin; ▶ Repentance; ▶ Faith; ▶ Hope; ▶ Love;
  - ▶ Kingdom of God; → Church
- [Henry Moore, *Life of John Wesley*] "Sir, you wish to serve God and go to heaven? Remember that you cannot serve Him alone. You must therefore find companions, or make them; the Bible knows nothing of solitary religion."

### 0.1. THE CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM (REVIEW)

- the church → the Body of Christ (the church as an organisation is often a part of the world)
- the kingdom → the manifestation of the power of God; all beings willingly submitted to the rule of God (humans, angels...?)

[LLOYD-JONES *Great Doctrines of the Bible III*, p. 4] we must be clear about the relationship of the Church and the kingdom. What is the kingdom of God? Well, it is best defined as the rule of God. The kingdom of God is present wherever God is reigning. ...the Church is an expression of the kingdom but is not to be equated with it.

[SNYDER *The Community of the King*] The Church is the agent of the Kingdom of God first of all through what it is. It best serves kingdom interests as the messianic community of God's people rather than as an ecclesiastical institution.

## 0.2. THE WORD "CHURCH"

### 0.2.1. THE GREEK WORD

- Greek (ἐκκλησία) → an assembly of the citizens summoned by the crier, the legislative assembly
  - **Acts 19:38** If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. <sup>39</sup> But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly (ἐν τῇ ἐννόμῳ ἐκκλησίᾳ ἐπιλυθήσεται). <sup>40</sup> For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion." <sup>41</sup> And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly (ἀπέλυσεν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν)
  - [SAUCY *The Church in God's Program*] "In Athens, ekklesia signified the constitutional assembly which met on previously fixed dates and did not need to be specifically summoned, much like our modern legislature... in secular Greek ekklesia refers only to the assembly or meeting and never to the people which compose that assembly"
  - [HORT *The Christian Ecclesia*] "There is no foundation for the widely spread notion that *ecclesia* means a people or a number of individual men called out of the world or mankind."
- Hebrew (קָהָל, קְהִלָּה) → the assembly, congregation, community of Israel
- The New Testament use of ekklesia.
  - [SAUCY] "A Greek concordance reveals that there are 114 occurrences of *ekklesia* in the New Testament. Five of these ...have no reference to the New Testament church, leaving 109 references that are so related. It is interesting to note in passing that the word does not occur in the gospels except for three references in Matthew 16:18 and 18:17. It is also absent from 2 Timothy, Titus, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, and Jude."

### 0.2.2. THE CHURCH → CHRIST

- Our word church/'cirkev' [kȳri(a)kón 'dũm páně, chrám'] comes from the Greek word kurios, which means 'lord' [SAUCY *The Church in God's Program*] "The English term church, along with the Scottish word kirk and German Kirche, is derived from the Greek kuriakon, which is the neuter adjective of kurios, "Lord," ... and means, "belonging to the Lord."

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Acts 20:28</b> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, <u>which he obtained with his own blood.</u> (ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, ἣν περιποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ αἵματος τοῦ ἰδίου.)</li> <li>• <b>Eph 1:22-23</b> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (ἔδωκεν κεφαλὴν ὑπὲρ πάντα τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ, <sup>23</sup> ἣτις ἐστὶν τὸ σῶμα αὐτοῦ, τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ τὰ πάντα ἐν πᾶσιν πληρουμένου.)</li> <li>• <b>Col 1:18</b> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent (καὶ αὐτός ἐστιν ἡ κεφαλὴ τοῦ σώματος τῆς ἐκκλησίας· ὅς ἐστιν ἀρχή, πρωτότοκος ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, ἵνα γένηται ἐν πᾶσιν αὐτὸς πρωτεύων)</li> </ul> |
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## 0.3. SOME OF THE BIBLICAL IMAGES

(1) the salt of the earth (2) a letter from Christ (3) one loaf (4) vineyard (5) God's building (6) pillar and buttress (7) virgins (8) the bride of Christ (9) citizens (10) exiles (11) ambassadors (12) the people of God (13) a chosen race (14) a holy nation (15) Abraham's sons (16) flock (17) the holy temple (18) priesthood (19) aroma

## 1. DEGREES OF...

- In church there are matters of various degrees of (1) importance, (2) permanence, (3) obedience...

### 1.1. ...IMPORTANCE

- **Rom 14:2** One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables
- **Rom 14:5** One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike
- **Rom 14:19-20** So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. <sup>20</sup> Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.

### 1.2. ...PERMANENCE

- **1Cor 3:11-13** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw- <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done

### 1.3. ...OBEDIENCE

- **Rev 3:7** And to the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write ... **3:8** I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.
- **Rev 3:14** And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ... **3:15-16** I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.
- **Rev 3:1** And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ... I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

## 2. THE CHURCH AS...

### 2.1. ...THE "GREAT HOUSE"

- **2Tim 2:20-21** Now in a great house (Ἐν μεγάλῃ δὲ οἰκίᾳ) there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.
- Church and culture → "Christendom"
- **1Cor 5:1-5** It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ... When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup> you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord

### 2.2. ...ORGANISATION

- **1Cor 16:1** Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

#### 2.2.1. THE CHURCH AND THE CHURCHES

- singular → **Rom 16:3-5** Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup> who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. <sup>5</sup> Greet also the church in their house. (καὶ τὴν κατ' οἶκον αὐτῶν ἐκκλησίαν. ἀσπάσασθε)
- **1Cor 16:19** Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house
- **Acts 9:31** So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria (Ἡ μὲν οὖν ἐκκλησία καθ' ὅλης τῆς Ἰουδαίας καὶ Γαλιλαίας καὶ Σαμαρείας) had peace and was being built up.
- plural → **Gal 1:1-2** Paul, an apostle- not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ

and God the Father, who raised him from the dead <sup>2</sup> and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia (ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις τῆς Γαλατίας):

### **2.2.2. CHURCH "GOVERNMENT"**

- "institution"; "organisation"; "hierarchy";
- **Eph 4:11-12** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers (Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους), <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ
- **Phil 1:1** Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons (ἐπισκόποις καὶ διακόνους)
- "Angel" (ἄγγελος) → ministry of the Word of God **Rev 2:1** To the angel of the church (Τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐν Ἐφέσῳ ἐκκλησίας) in Ephesus write:
- Bishops (ἐπίσκοπος) → discipline (**Mt 18:15-17** "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church (εἰπὲ τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ). And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.)
- Elders (πρεσβύτερος) → guidance (**1 Peter 5:1-4** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God (ποιμάνετε τὸ ἐν ὑμῖν ποίμνιον τοῦ θεοῦ) that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory)
- spiritual aspect → worship (God), fellowship (church), witness (the world)

### **2.3. ...THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD**

- spiritual aspect → worship (God), fellowship (church), witness (the world)

#### **2.3.1. THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD**

- **John 4:23-24** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.
- **1Cor 3:16** ...you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (ναὸς θεοῦ ἐστε καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ θεοῦ οἰκεῖ ἐν ὑμῖν;)
- **Mt 18:20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.
- **1Tim 3:15** if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth (πῶς δεῖ ἐν οἴκῳ θεοῦ ἀναστρέφεσθαι, ἥτις ἐστὶν ἐκκλησία θεοῦ ζῶντος, στύλος καὶ ἐδραῖωμα τῆς ἀληθείας)

#### **2.3.2. "TOGETHERNESS"**

- ("ἀλλήλους")
- **Heb 10:24** And let us consider how to stir up one another (ἀλλήλους) to love and good works
- **1Cor 1:9** God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ (ἐκλήθητε εἰς κοινωνίαν τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ) our Lord
- **Phil 2:1** So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit (εἴ τις κοινωνία πνεύματος), any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
- **Eph 2:19-22** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens (συμπολίται) with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together (συναρμολογουμένη), grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In

him you also are being built together (συνοικοδομεῖσθε) into a dwelling place for God (εἰς κατοικητήριον τοῦ θεοῦ) by the Spirit

- **Eph 4:15-16** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love

### ***2.3.3. COSMIC WITNESS***

- **Eph 3:1-10** For this reason I, Paul, ... <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places (ἵνα γνωρισθῇ νῦν ταῖς ἀρχαῖς καὶ ταῖς ἐξουσίαις ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις διὰ τῆς ἐκκλησίας ἡ πολυποίκιλος σοφία τοῦ θεοῦ).
- **Mt 5:14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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