

a study by  
*Dr. J.E. VanBuskirk*

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**SALT LAKE BAPTIST COLLEGE**  
3769 West 4700 South  
Taylorsville, UT 84118  
(801) 964-2888

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# Ecclesiology

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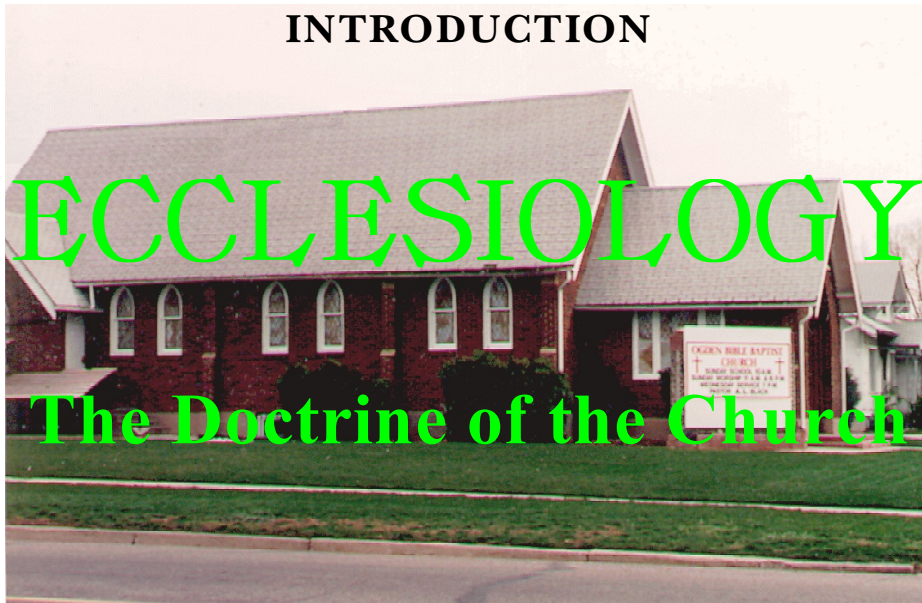
## STUDY and ATTENDANCE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Student must submit a Sign In form before beginning the course and mark the form “Begin.”
2. You must look up and read every Scripture reference listed in the textbook.
3. Only the King James Version Bible is allowed.
4. Student may not complete more than one (1) section of the workbook per week unless instructed in the textbook to do so.
5. Tests may not be taken until the end of the week of study for the section.
6. Student must submit a Sign In sheet after completing the entire course prior to taking the Final Test and mark the form “Finish.”
7. All tests are “open book,” which means you may use your textbook while taking the tests. The Final Test is also “open book.”



# Ecclesiology

## INTRODUCTION



The doctrine of the Church is probably one of the most misunderstood, misrepresented doctrines there is. Many confuse it with “The Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven,” and others confuse it with the term, “Christendom.” So much is made of the larger terms, The Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven, and Christendom, that the world tends to make correspondingly little of the Church. So much is being made today of (so-called) Christianity that churchism, as those things pertaining to the Church is called, is put down as a consequence.

### ***Religion and Church-***

Today it is very common to hear, among the heathen and the Christian alike, “I don’t believe in organized religion.” The problem is, most people use this phrase as a synonym for, “I don’t believe in church.” Religion and Church are not synonymous terms in the Bible.

*Religion-* According to the Bible, religion is the outward trappings of our service to God.

**Jas 1:27 Pure \_\_\_\_\_ and undefiled before God and the Father is this,  
To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,  
[and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

**“religion” -** \_\_\_\_\_, *thrace-ki’-ah*, religious worship, esp. external, that which consists of ceremonies, religious discipline, religion

**“church” -** \_\_\_\_\_, *ek-la-see’-ah*, a called out, baptized, body of believers.  
(We will go more into this word a little later.)

**It’s obvious that these two words, religion  
and church, are not synonymous as some think.**



# Ecclesiology

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To keep in mind the proper place of the Church, as compared to the seemingly loftier and larger Christendom and The Kingdoms, we must bear several facts in mind:

1. Jesus Christ positively identifies himself with the Church and not with Christendom.  
(Acts 9:1-5)

2. He gave up His life to found the Church. (Eph 5:24)

3. God, in the person of Christ, shed His own blood for the Church.

**Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with \_\_\_\_\_ .**

4. Paul gave his life in service to build up the Church not Christendom.

(II Tim 2:10; II Cor 11:2, 23-28)

5. Paul speaks of his greatest sin as concerning his persecuting the Church of God.

(I Cor 15:9)

6. The supreme business of God in this age is the gathering of a people for Himself.

(Acts 15:13-17)

7. When the Church is finally complete, which will exist corporately only in Heaven (Heb 12:22-23), then this age will be over and the Tribulation will begin.

(Jn 14:3; I Thess chs. 4 & 5; I Cor 15:35-54; et al)

8. The Holy Spirit working in the Church is what prevents evil from taking over.

(II Thess 2:6-7)

From these examples it is easy to see that God places the Church in a lofty position indeed. This then gives us pause to examine the common beliefs about the Kingdom and Christendom.

We must now ask ourselves this question: During this age, are The Kingdom and Christendom in ascendance or is the Church in ascendance? To decide this we must first define the terms, Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Christ, and Christendom.

**Christendom-** This term is a secular term, not a biblical term; and it means those countries or those parts of the world professing Christianity. Thus in Christendom are many professors of Christ, but, no one knows how many are possessors of Christ.

**The Kingdom of God-** This kingdom was announced at Christ's first coming and will be set up at His return. It includes all things, visible and invisible.

(Ps 47:7; Ps 104; Mk 1:15)

- Believers are born into it at their new birth. (Jn 3:3-7)

- Believers are to be worthy of it. (II Thess 1:4-5)

- The unsaved cannot see (perceive) it. (Jn 3:3-5)

- Angels are part of it. (Ps 103-20-22)

- Satan and demons are answerable to it. (Is 24:21; Rev 20:1-3)

- Men are to seek it. (Mt 6:33)

- It is never identified with the Church in scripture.

- Nowhere in scripture are men told to build the Kingdom.



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**The Kingdom of Heaven-** The term is found only in the book of Matthew, where it appears some 30 times. The Kingdom of God is also mentioned in Matthew, but only 5 times.

- Similarities between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God.

Kingdom of Heaven	Similarities between the two	Kingdom of God
<p><b>Mt 3:2</b>  <b>Mt 13:11</b>  <b>Mt 13:33</b></p>	<p>Both will be established on earth.            Mysteries are associated with both.            Christ associated the parable of the leaven with both of them.</p>	<p><b>Mk 1:15</b>  <b>Lk 8:10</b>  <b>Lk 13:21</b></p>

- We cannot, however, consider them to be the same kingdom because of certain striking differences between them.

Kingdom of God	Differences between the two	Kingdom of Heaven
<p><b>Jn 3:3, 5</b>  <b>Dan 4:2, 3; Heb 1:8</b>  <b>Jn 3:3, 5</b>  <b>Jn 5:24; 10:28-29</b></p>	<p>KOG is entered only by the new birth.            KOH is not.            KOG is eternal. KOH is not.            Only the saved are in the KOG.            Unsaved are found in the KOH.            The saved are safe in the KOG.            Unsaved will be cast out of the KOH.</p>	<p><b>Mt 5:20; 7:21</b>  <b>I Cor 15:24; Rev 20:6</b>  <b>Mt 13:47</b>  <b>Mt 13:41-43; 47-51</b></p>

We must consider the **Kingdom of Heaven** to be the rule of heaven over earth by Christ when He establishes His Kingdom on earth. **The Kingdom of God** is His sovereign rule in the universe, in both the spiritual and physical realms, and in the hearts of His people. (**Ps 103:19**)

**The Church** is different from both of these. **It is a called-out, baptized body of believers.** This distinguishes it from both Kingdoms. It is part of both, true, but it is not wholly either.

The definition of what the church is: the definition of the word itself, the Church's place, its institution, its membership, its ordinances, its vocation, its purpose, various other facts about it, and its eventual destiny, are the subjects grouped under the heading, "Ecclesiology." In short, "Ecclesiology," is simply the study of the Church.



# Ecclesiology

## SECTION ONE

### THE IDEA OF THE CHURCH

#### I. Definitions.

A. Old Testament use of the term.

1. Assembly. (Called- assemble together. **Lev 4:13**)
2. Israel. (Church in the wilderness. **Acts 7:38**)

B. New Testament use of the term.

**NOTE:** The Church is a New Testament institution.

There are two words used to denote the New Testament Church:

- *ec-le-see'-ah* - to call out from. Translated Church(es) - 114 times.  
The saints are the called out ones.  
**(Mt 16:18, 18:17; I Cor 1:2; Eph 5:25, 27; Ro 8:30; I Cor 1:2 II Cor 6:17)**
- *kuriakon*- That which belongs to the Lord. **(I Cor 11:20; Rev 1:10)**  
This term is used concerning the Church as in, "the Lord's supper;" and also in connection with the Church's day of worship, "the Lord's day."

#### II. The Idea Of the Church.

A. The fundamental idea of the New Testament Church is plainly brought out in the Greek verb *kalein*, from the root word *ka-lay'-o*, signifying *to call*, with its derivatives and compounds. When this is combined with the Gk word *ek*, which means, *from or out of*, then we derive the word, *ecclesia* (church) with the meaning of called out.

##### **Derivatives and compounds of the verb *kalien*:**

1. *kalein*. This Greek word, which means "to call" denotes the first act of Christ in point of time in connection with the Church.  
**(Rom. 8:30; I Cor. 1:9; II Thess. 2:14; I Pet. 2:9)**
2. *kletoi*: This word, which means "the called," or "the invited," designates the members of the Church. **(Rom. 1:6, 7; 8:28; I Cor 1:1-2; Jude :1)**
3. *klesis*. This word, which means "calling," denotes the peculiar vocation of the Church. **(Rom. 11:29; I Cor 1:26; Eph. 4:1, 4)**
4. *parakletos*. This word, which is commonly translated "comforter," designates the indwelling and informing Spirit in the *kletoi* (the called).  
**(John 14:16, 17; Rom. 8:9, 11; I Cor 3:16; Eph. 2:22)**

**John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another \_\_\_\_\_, that he may abide with you for ever;**





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5. *epi-kalein*. This word points out the distinct and distinguishing act of the *kletoi* - to call on Christ, i.e., to invoke Him in prayer.

**(I Cor 1:1, 2; Rom. 10:9, 13; Acts 7:58, 59; 9:14, 21; 22:16)**

6. *para-kalein*. This word points out the act of the *kletoi* toward one another. Which is to call to, exhort, or strengthen in the faith.

**(Heb 3:13; 10:25; I Thess 3:2)**

7. *ec-le-see-ah*. This word designates the company, body, or organism of the *kletoi*, i.e. the Church. **(Mt 16:18; 18:17)**

**Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the (*ecleseeah*) \_\_\_\_\_: but if he neglect to hear the (*ecleseeahs*) \_\_\_\_\_, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.**

B. One other word we need to understand, and the scriptures where it is used as concerning the Church, is the word, “baptize.”

**Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were \_\_\_\_\_: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls.**

“baptized” - *e-bap-tis-thay-san*, from *baptidzo*, meaning to immerse, to dip, in water.

C. When we combine the meanings of *kalein*, and its derivatives, with the scripture in Acts concerning baptism, then we come up with a definition for the word church, *ecclesia*:

1. The Church is a company of called out, baptized, believers.
2. They are called out from the world, indwelt by the Spirit, and have the special and peculiar ministry toward God of prayer, and toward one another of exhortation and consolation.

### III. The Two-fold Meaning of “The Church.”

There are two distinct usages of the Greek noun *ec-le-see-ah*, or Church, in the New Testament.

A. The Church Universal.

This is a Spiritual Body, composed of all believers of all ages who are united to God by faith in Jesus Christ. **(Eph 1:2; 3:21; Heb 12:23)**

This church exists only in Heaven; and it will **not** exist on the earth until Christ brings it with Him when the Holy City, New Jerusalem descends from Heaven.

**(Heb 12:23; Rev ch. 21)**

B. The Church Local.

This is the physical manifestation of the Church. It is a visible body of baptized believers united to God by faith in Jesus Christ.

1. It is used of a small company in a house. **(Ro 16:5; Phi :2)**
2. It is used of the Christian congregation of a town or city. **(I Cor 1:2; I Thess 1:1)**
3. It is used of a group of churches in a country or nation. **(Gal 1:2)**

C. Christ spoke of the Church in its two-fold meaning; both the visible, physical manifestation of it, and the invisible, spiritual Church.

1. The spiritual, Universal Church. **(Mt 16:18)**



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2. The visible, physical manifestation, known as the Local Church. (Mt 18:17)

D. It is important to remember that the invisible, spiritual, **Universal Church**, exists **only in Heaven** at this time. We believers will never see it on earth during this age; and neither will the unbelievers. We and they will, however, see it when it comes to earth after the Tribulation time. And at that time, we believers will all come back with it, along with the redeemed of all ages who are all part of it.

## IV. Clarification of the Word *Ekklisea*

A. General meaning- an assembly. (Acts 19:32, 39, 41)

B. Special meaning (most usage)- Church.

NOTE: These will be test questions.



What is the general meaning of the word *ekklisia*? an assembly

What is the special, and most common meaning of the word *ekklisia*?  
Church

What is the Church?

It is a called out, baptized, body of believers.

Scripturally define these terms:

Universal Church. All of the believers, the Church in Heaven.

Local Church: A called out, baptized, body of believers, the Church on Earth.

Will the Universal Church ever exist on earth? Yes

When will that happen? When Christ brings it with Him after the Tribulation.

**Test will be “open book” and has a passing score of 100%.**

**Sometimes the tests don’t open on the first try.**

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**Return to the Ecclesiology course main page and take the**  
**[INTRODUCTION & SECTION ONE TEST](#)**



# Ecclesiology

## SECTION TWO

### THE FOUNDING & COMMISSIONING OF THE CHURCH

#### I. The Founding of the Church.

It was founded by Christ.

A. There are several views held as to when the Church was founded.

1. By Christ during His ministry. (The true view.)
2. At Pentecost. (The false view.)

This confusion can be easily cleared up when one examines **Acts 1:8**.

**Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive \_\_\_\_\_, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...

Speaking to the church (“ye”) Christ promised that they would receive “**power**” from the Holy Ghost, which they did, as He promised they would, on the day of Pentecost. Therefore, the day of Pentecost was not the birthday of the Church, as Evans and others claim, but the day of **Pentecost** was the day of the **empowering** of the already existent Church.

**NOTE: These will be test questions.**

**When did the Church begin?**

At Pentecost During Christ’s ministry

**Who started the Church? Jesus Christ**

**What happened at Pentecost? The Church was empowered.**



B. The founding of the Church by Christ.

1. He gave a prophecy and promise of building it. (**Mt 16:16-18**)

**NOTE:** This could, however, also be viewed as a promise to build up what already existed.

2. Two major views about WHEN Christ founded His Church.

a. Many believe the foundation of the church was somewhere between **Mt 16:18** “... **I will build my church**” and **Mt 18:17** “... **tell it unto the church.**”

b. Many believe that He founded it when He called His first disciples in **Mt 4:18**.

3. Recognition of the church visible (discipline). (**Mt 18:15-20**)

4. The giving of the Holy Spirit to the believers. (**Jn 20:22**)

5. The filling of the Church corporately, with the Holy Spirit and power. (**Acts ch. 2**)

C. The propagation of the Church by the Apostles. (**Acts chs. 1 & 2**)

They met in appointed places:

1. Upper room. (**Acts 1:13**)
2. The Temple. (**Acts 12:5**)
3. In homes. (**Acts 2:46; 12:12**)
4. In synagogues. (**Acts ch. 13**)

D. They met at appointed times.

1. Daily. (**Acts 2:46**)
2. The Lord’s day. (**Acts 20:7**)



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3. At regular hours of prayer. (Acts 3:1, 10:9)
- E. Church Officers.  
Called by several names.
1. Bishops & Deacons. (Phil 1:1)
  2. Elders. (Acts 20:17)
  3. Presbytery. (I Tim 4:14)
- F. Letters granted. (Acts 18:27)

**NOTE:** Concerning the Church started by Jesus Christ there is much controversy. “What kind of Church was it?” is the question most asked. A simple exercise of logic drawn from the scriptural accounts of the founding and propagation of Jesus’ original Church will quickly bring one to the correct answer.

- A. Jesus Christ went to John the Baptist for Baptism.**
- B. His original church members also had the Baptism of John the Baptist.**
- C. Therefore, when they baptized new members into the Church, they passed on the baptism of John to the new members.**
- D. Just as you become a Catholic by being baptized by a Catholic, and you become a Methodist by being baptized by a Methodist, and you become a Lutheran by being baptized by a Lutheran, and etc., so to, you become a Baptist by being baptized by a Baptist. (A church is a called out, baptized body of believers.)**
- E. Since these are true, then the Church that was founded by Jesus Christ was what we would call a Baptist Church.**

**Explanation:** During the time of Christ there was only one church; therefore, it was not necessary to call it by any particular name. However, as the years rolled by there were some major divisions that spawned some heretical sects. The most famous of these was when the heresy of Roman Catholicism came into ascendance in the third and fourth centuries A.D. From that time forth it was necessary to delineate between Roman Catholicism and the Independent churches that refused to join in with them in their heretical twistings of scripture and the scriptural polity of the church. When that became a necessity, it was actually our enemies that first gave us our name. They called us by many names down through the centuries but the longest lasting and most widely used by both Catholics and Protestants was “anaBaptists.” Later, that name was shortened to “Baptist.” The Baptists of today (and I only mean those who are really Baptists) are direct descendants from that first Church at Jerusalem and perpetuators of the baptism authorized by Jesus Christ himself when He submitted to it at the hands of His cousin, John the Baptist.

Since it is necessary today to use a label that designates both our descent and our authority, then we must call ourselves “Baptists.” Also, in order for us to make a connection that is understandable by both those who follow history and those of today who need a label that designates a church’s stand on doctrinal issues, then we can unequivocally state that if labels had been necessary at the time of Christ, then it would have to be said that:

**Jesus founded the first Baptist Church at Jerusalem!**



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## II. The Commissioning of the Church by Christ.

This commissioning of the Church took place in **Mt 28:18-20**.

This is generally called “The Great Commission.”

- A. God’s omnipotence was promised with the commission. (**Mt 28:18**)
- B. The commission was in three parts- all of which **MUST** be carried out.
  - 1. The commission and command to “Win ‘em.” (**Mt 28:19a** cf **Mk 16:15**)
  - 2. The commission and command to “Baptize ‘em.” (**Mt 28:19b**)
  - 3. The commission and command to “Grow ‘em.” (**Mt 28:20**)
- C. The power of God was given to the commissioned Church on Pentecost.
  - 1. It was referred to at the commissioning of the Church. (**Mt 28:18**)
  - 2. It was promised at the Ascension. (**Acts 1:8**)
  - 3. It was received at Jerusalem on Pentecost. (**Acts 2:1-4**)



**NOTE: These will be test questions.**

**Give me the scripture reference for the Great Commission given to the Church by Christ. Mt 28:18-20**

**Give me the scripture reference where the Church received its empowerment on Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4**

**How do you become a Baptist?**

**By being baptized by a Baptist under the authority of a Baptist Church.**

**In today’s terms, what kind of local Church did Jesus Christ start? (Circle one)**  
**Methodist, Presbyterian, Assembly of God, Jehovah’s Witness, Roman Catholic, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Baptist, Buddhist, New Age, Atheist**

**Jesus had the baptism of John the Baptist, therefore He showed us that the only proper baptism is by a Baptist.**

**Test will be “open book.”**

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**Return to the Ecclesiology course main page and take the [SECTION TWO TEST](#)**



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## SECTION THREE

### THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

#### I. One Church at Jerusalem. (Acts chs. 1 & 2)

##### A. They met in the upper room.

**Acts 1:13** And when they were come in, they went up into an \_\_\_\_\_, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

**Acts 1:14** These all continued with \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

**Acts 1:15** And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were \_\_\_\_\_,)

##### B. They met in various houses. (Acts 2:46)

**Acts 2:46** And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from \_\_\_\_\_, did eat their meat with \_\_\_\_\_ and singleness of heart,

##### C. They met in the Temple.

**Act 2:46** And they, continuing daily with one accord in \_\_\_\_\_, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

#### II. Explosive growth:

##### A. At first, 120 members. (Acts ch. 1)

##### B. God added 3,000 more members. (2:41)

**Acts 2:41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about \_\_\_\_\_ souls.

##### C. God added 5,000 more members. (4:4)

**Acts 4:4** Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about \_\_\_\_\_.

#### III. The Apostles were at the head. (2:41-47)

**Acts 2:42** And they continued stedfastly in the \_\_\_\_\_ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Acts 2:43** And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### IV. The growing Church and its ministries. (Acts chs. 1 & 2)

#### V. The spread of the Church.

##### A. The commission of the Church was to "the uttermost." (Acts 1:8)

**Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:



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**and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto \_\_\_\_\_.**

**B.** The beginning of the spread from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria. (**Acts ch. 8**)

**C.** The churches had spread through Galatia. (**Gal 1:2**)

**D.** The church spread to various cities mentioned by name.

1. See the epistles of Paul to the various churches.

2. The book of the Revelation mentions various churches by name.

**Rev 1:11** Saying, **I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto \_\_\_\_\_, and unto \_\_\_\_\_, and unto \_\_\_\_\_, and unto \_\_\_\_\_, and unto \_\_\_\_\_, and unto \_\_\_\_\_, and unto \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **VI. The persecution of the Church.**

**A.** At Jerusalem. (**Acts 8:1**)

**Acts 8:1** **And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great \_\_\_\_\_ against the church which was at \_\_\_\_\_; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.**

**B.** In a generic sense. (**I Cor 15:9; Gal 1:13**)

## **VII. The power of the Church.**

There were two common denominators during the manifestations of the power of God in the Church which resulted in their most explosive periods of growth:

**A.** They were gathered together in prayer. (**Acts 1:24-2:42**)

**Act 1:24** **And they \_\_\_\_\_, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,**

**Act 2:42** **And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in \_\_\_\_\_.**

**B.** They were all in one accord. (**Acts 1:14; 2:46**)

**Act 1:14** **These all continued with \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.**

**Act 2:46** **And they, continuing daily with \_\_\_\_\_ in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,**



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**NOTE:** This will be a test question.

**What are the two keys to power and growth in the Church?**

**One accord and Prayer.**

## THE KEYS TO POWER AND GROWTH

*3,000 added to the Church:*

Acts 1:14 "... one accord in prayer..."

Acts 2:41 "... added ... three thousand souls."

*5,000 added to the Church:*

Acts 2:42 "continued... in prayers..."

Acts 2:46 "continued daily with one accord..."

Acts 4:4 "believed; and the number of men was about five thousand."



**NOTE:** These will be test questions.

**In what three places did the early church meet?**

**The upper room, the temple, and various houses.**

**The explosive growth of the Church is marked by what three numbers in the scriptures?**

**120   3,000   5,000**

**Who were at the head of the early Church? The Apostles**

**In Acts 1:8 the Church was commissioned to go to Jerusalem, all Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

**The beginning of the spread of the Church from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria is recorded in what chapter of the book of Acts? chapter 8**

**Gal 1:2 shows that the Church had spread through what area? Galatia**

**In Acts 8:1 the persecution was directed at the Church in Jerusalem.**

**The book of the Revelation mentions what 7 Churches in Asia?**

**Ephesus   Smyrna   Pergamos   Thyatira  
Sardis   Philadelphia   Laodicea**

**Return to the Ecclesiology course main page and take the SECTION THREE TEST**





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## SECTION FOUR

### THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

#### I. Repentance & Baptism required. (Acts 2:38, 41)

**Act 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, \_\_\_\_\_, and be \_\_\_\_\_ every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

(NOTE: In this verse the word “for” in the section “for the remission of sins” means “because of” and not “to accomplish.”)

**:41** Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were \_\_\_\_\_ about three thousand souls.

#### II. Faith in the Lord as Saviour & Divine Redeemer. (Mt 16:16-18)

They must be Saved.

**Mat 16:16** And Simon Peter answered and said, \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of the living God.

**Mat 16:17** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

**Mat 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock \_\_\_\_\_; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

#### III. Regenerated membership. (Acts 2:47; Jn 3:3, 5)

(Also: Added to the Lord. Acts ch. 5)

**Act 2:47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily \_\_\_\_\_.

#### IV. Baptism in the name of the Triune God as an open profession of Christ.

(Mt 28:19; Acts 10:47, 48; 22:16; Ro 10:9-10)

**Act 10:47** Can any man forbid water, that these should not be \_\_\_\_\_, which have \_\_\_\_\_ as well as we?

**Act 10:48** And he commanded them to be baptized \_\_\_\_\_. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

**NOTE:** This baptism must be under the authority of a New Testament Baptist Church.

#### V. Adherence to the Apostolic Doctrine. (Acts 2:42; Eph 2:20; Mt 16:16-18)

**Act 2:42** And they continued stedfastly in the \_\_\_\_\_ and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

#### VI. Characteristics of Membership in the early church.

##### A. Brethren. (Acts 11:29; 12:17; Ro 1:13)

**Rom 1:13** Now I would not have you ignorant, \_\_\_\_\_, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.



# Ecclesiology

## B. Believers. (Acts 4:32)

Act 4:32 And the multitude of \_\_\_\_\_ were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

## C. Equality of the Believers. (Mt 23:8-10, James 2:1-9)

Mat 23:8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your \_\_\_\_\_, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

Jas 2:2 For if there \_\_\_\_\_ a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a \_\_\_\_\_ in vile raiment;

Jas 2:3 And ye \_\_\_\_\_ that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

Jas 2:4 Are ye not then \_\_\_\_\_, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

## D. They were called Christians. (Acts 11:26; 26:28)

Act 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the \_\_\_\_\_, and taught much people. And the disciples were called \_\_\_\_\_ first in Antioch.

## E. They were called saints. (Acts 9:13; I Cor 1:2)

Act 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy \_\_\_\_\_ at Jerusalem:

## F. The Elect. (Mk 13:27; Ro 8:33; Eph 1:4)

Rom 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of \_\_\_\_\_?  
It is God that justifieth.



NOTE: These will be test questions.

What are the 3 requirements for membership in a local, New Testament Baptist Church?

Repentance, Saved, and Baptized by a New Testament Baptist Church.

They were first called Christians at Antioch

Does a person have to repent and be saved before they can become a member of a New Testament Baptist Church? Yes

By what family name were the members called in the New Testament Church? Brethren

**- special instructions -**

**You may continue on and study the next section.  
There will be one test for sections 4 and 5 combined.**



# Ecclesiology

## SECTION FIVE

### FIGURES OF THE CHURCH

#### I. Body. (With Christ as the head.)

##### A. Relation of the Church to Christ. (Eph 1:22)

(Guardian, director, filler, center, cause of growth.)

**Eph 1:22** And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over \_\_\_\_\_ to the church,

**Eph 1:23** Which is \_\_\_\_\_, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

##### B. Relationship, member to member. (I Cor 12:12-27; Ro 12:4-5; Eph 4:1-4)

**I Cor 12:25** That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same \_\_\_\_\_.

**I Cor 12:26** And whether \_\_\_\_\_ member suffer, \_\_\_\_\_ the members suffer with it; or \_\_\_\_\_ member be honoured, \_\_\_\_\_ the members rejoice with it.

#### II. Temple.

##### A. Building, habitation for the Spirit.

**I Cor 3:9** For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's \_\_\_\_\_.

**I Cor 3:16** Know ye not that ye are the \_\_\_\_\_, and that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God dwelleth in you?

##### B. Christ is the cornerstone.

(Eph 2:20-21; I Cor 3:9-17; I Pet 2:4-8)

**Eph 2:20** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the \_\_\_\_\_;

#### III. Bride. (II Cor 11:2; Eph 5:25, 27; Rev 19:7; 22:17)

##### A. Christ is the bridegroom. (Mt 9:14-15; Mk 2:19-20; Lk 5:34-35; Jn 3:29; )

**Mat 9:15** And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the \_\_\_\_\_ is with them? but the days will come, when the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

##### B. The Bride becomes the wife of the Lamb. (Rev 21:2, 9; 22:17)

**Rev 22:17** And the Spirit and the \_\_\_\_\_ say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

**NOTE:** These will be test questions.

Give me three figures of the local Church. body, temple, bride

Who is the bridegroom? Christ

Who is the cornerstone of the Temple? Christ



**Return to the Ecclesiology course main page and take the**  
**SECTIONS FOUR and FIVE TEST**



# Ecclesiology

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## SECTION SIX

### THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

#### I. Baptism. (Mk 16:16; Mt 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:36-40, 10:47, 48)

A. Jesus authorized only one baptism. (Mt 3:1-)

**Mat 3:1** In those days came John \_\_\_\_\_, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

**Mat 3:13** Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mat 3:14** But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be \_\_\_\_\_, and comest thou to me?

**Mat 3:15** And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for \_\_\_\_\_ to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

B. You become a Baptist by being baptized by a Baptist under the authority of a Baptist Church.

NOTE: Although the pastor is the one that normally administers the ordinance of Baptism, the authority to do so does not reside with him but with the Local Baptist Church that he pastors.

#### II. The Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:42, 46; Acts 20:7; I Cor 11:20-34)

Since this ordinance was given to the Local Church, then scripturally it is to be observed ONLY by members of that Local Church. This is commonly known by the term “closed communion.”

#### III. The Ordinances and Salvation

A. Nowhere in the Bible is there scriptural support for the common error of believing that the ordinances have a Slavatory effect upon the participants.

Common misunderstandings of several scriptures coupled with the common practice of taking them out of context have led some groups to believe that the ordinances are somehow integrally coupled with the act of Salvation. This has led to the practice by some heretical groups, such as the Catholics, of calling the “ordinances” by the name of “sacraments.” Most Protestant groups brought this name, “sacraments” when they came out of their mother, the Catholic Church. Others have not carried the name, “sacraments,” with them from their mother, but still do practice the ordinances as sacraments as in the common Protestant heresy of “baptismal regeneration.”

B. Scriptural proofs against the heretical stance concerning Salvation and the ordinances.

**Luke 23:42-43** “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day \_\_\_\_\_ in paradise.”

1. The thief on the cross was not baptized but he was saved.
2. The thief on the cross did not partake of the Lord’s Supper and yet he was saved.
3. The argument is made that the thief on the cross was a special circumstance.



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Answer: God makes no special provision for anyone.

**Acts 10:34** “... Of a truth I perceive that God is \_\_\_\_\_ of persons:”

4. There is only one Salvation and it is a common Salvation. (**Jude :3**)

Meaning the one Salvation is common to all.

**Jude :3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the \_\_\_\_\_ salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

5. Belief in Christ alone is the only effectual means of Salvation. Biblically, the ordinances are simply rituals of obedience picturing the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

When practiced as effectors of Salvation by heretical sects of Christianity, they mirror other pagan/magical rites such as are commonly practiced by adherents of Cybele, Roman Mithraism, Shamans, and many others, seeking to control the “gods” with their “religious” or, if you will, “spiritual” works. Biblically, no type of works, even those done for religious purposes, have any salvatory effect whatsoever.

**Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye \_\_\_\_\_; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

**Eph 2:9 Not of \_\_\_\_\_, lest any man should boast.**

**NOTE: These will be test questions.**

**What are the two ordinances of the Church?**

**Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.**

**Where does the authority to Baptize reside?**

**With the local Baptist Church.**

**Is there any Salvatory effect to either of the ordinances? No**

**Who’s Baptism did the Lord Jesus Christ authorize? John the Baptist**

**Who may observe the Lord’s Supper with the Local Church? members only**

**Members only at the Lord’s Supper is called closed communion.**

**Are Baptism and the Lord’s Supper Sacraments or Ordinances? Ordinances**



**Return to the Ecclesiology course main page and take the SECTION SIX TEST**



# Ecclesiology

## SECTION SEVEN

### THE VOCATION OF THE CHURCH

#### I. Worship God & glorify Him on earth. (Eph 1:4-6; 3:21)

Eph 1:6 To the \_\_\_\_\_ of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Eph 3:21 Unto him be \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

#### II. Evangelize the World. (Mt 28:19, 20; Mk 16:15; Acts 1:8)

Mar 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and \_\_\_\_\_ to every creature.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in \_\_\_\_\_, and in all \_\_\_\_\_, and in \_\_\_\_\_, and unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth.

#### III. Develop each Christian.

##### A. Until he attains to the stature of the fulness of Christ. (Eph 4: 11-15)

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ:

##### B. Failure to grow leads to backsliding. (Heb 10:25-28; I Thess 5:4-11)

I Thess 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

#### IV. Constant witness for Christ and His Word. (Acts 1:8; 8:1-4)

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and \_\_\_\_\_ both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.



**NOTE:** This will be a test question.

What is the vocation of the Church?

1. Worship and glorify God on earth.
2. Evangelize the world.
3. Develop each Christian.
4. Be a constant witness for Christ and His Word.
5. Failure to grow leads to backsliding.

**- special instructions -**

**You may continue on and study the next section.  
There will be one test for sections 7 and 8 combined.**



# Ecclesiology

## SECTION EIGHT THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

### I. From the Present to the Rapture.

#### A. Continuance in all of the things commanded by Christ.

This includes worship, witnessing, baptizing, etc.; i.e., continuance in carrying out the Great Commission.

#### B. Definition- The Rapture.

The rapture is defined as the catching away of the Church by Christ.

### II. The Rapture.

#### A. We are to be spared God's wrath. (I Thess 5:1-9)

**I Thess 5:9 For God hath \_\_\_\_\_, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

#### B. We are to be spared the Tribulation time.

##### 1. In the Old Testament it is referred to as:

###### a. The time of tribulation. (Deut 4:30)

**Deu 4:30 When thou art \_\_\_\_\_, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;**

###### b. Jacob's trouble. (Jer 30:7)

**Jer 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the \_\_\_\_\_; but he shall be saved out of it.**

##### 2. In the New Testament it is referred to as:

###### a. The hour of temptation. (Rev 3:10)

**Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from \_\_\_\_\_, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.**

Def. "... temptation..." , *pi-ras-mou'*, *trial* , *calamity*, *affliction*

###### b. Great tribulation. (Mt 24:21)

**Mat 24:21 For then \_\_\_\_\_, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

#### C. Promises of the Rapture. (Jn 14:3; I Thess 4:13-18)

**I Thess 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be \_\_\_\_\_ together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

#### D. Preparation for the Rapture as a Local Church.

We are to be:

##### 1. Waiting. (I Thess 1:10)

**I Thess 1:10 And to \_\_\_\_\_, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.**



# Ecclesiology

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2. Watching. (I Thess 5:6)  
I Thess 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us \_\_\_\_\_ and be sober.
3. Looking. (Titus 2:13)  
Titus 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_ that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
4. Loving His appearing. (II Tim 4:8)  
II Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Putting each other in remembrance. (I Tim 4:6)  
I Tim 4:6 If thou \_\_\_\_\_ of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.
6. Assembling in Church and exhorting one another more and more as the Rapture approaches. (Heb 10:25)  
Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the \_\_\_\_\_, as the manner of some is; \_\_\_\_\_: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

### III. Future glory of the Church after the Rapture. (Eph 3:10, 21; Rev 21:9-27)

Eph 3:21 Unto him be \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Rev 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the \_\_\_\_\_ did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.



NOTE: These will be test questions.

What is the rapture? The catching away of the Church by Christ.  
Give me book and chapter for the Rapture event. I Thess ch. 4  
In preparation for the Rapture as a Local Church we are to be:  
1. waiting, 2. watching, 3. looking, 4. loving His appearing,  
5. putting each other in remembrance,  
6. assembling in Church and exhorting one another.

**Return to the Ecclesiology course main page and take the**  
**SECTIONS SEVEN and EIGHT TEST**





# Ecclesiology

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## EPILOGUE

There is much more to be learned about the New Testament Baptist Church. This class has given you a working knowledge of what, where, when, and how. Reading your textbook has given you a somewhat more expanded base of working knowledge about the New Testament Baptist Church. However, please do not stop there. Go on to expand on that knowledge through study of the source of all knowledge about the Church- your King James Bible. Use your class notes and textbook as simple study guides as you delve into the subject more deeply in your bible.

It is my prayer and fervent wish for you that you build upon what you have learned in this class and go much farther during your life in your understanding of the Church than I have in mine. I believe that this is, or at least should be, the prayer and goal of every teacher of God's Word. I have given you a foundation from God's Word, now let God's Holy Spirit build upon that foundation and increase your understanding of Ecclesiology as you continue to study the subject in the Scriptures.

I have given you the sendoff and the first push. Now may your journey be long and fruitful.

Christ's Servant in Taylorsville,

*Dr. J E Van Burskirk*

Taylorsville, UT  
November 22, 2008

**Return to the Ecclesiology course main page and take the**  
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as well as companion videos may be ordered from:**

**Dr. T. E. VanBuskirk  
Salt Lake Baptist College  
3769 W. 4700 S.  
Taylorsville, UT 84118  
(801) 399-9220**

**[docvbk@saltlakebaptistcollege.org](mailto:docvbk@saltlakebaptistcollege.org)**

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