

FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Systematic Theology Course

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VOLUME 2 37

The Doctrine of the Church

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Introduction to the Church

Volume 2 - Unit 1

I. Definition of Terms

A. "Church" ("kirk") from kuriakos ("belonging to the Lord").

B. Greek Word: ekklesia - "a called-out assembly".

1. Old Testament (Septuagint, LXX) Usage - about 100 times: 86 times =
Congregation of Israel (Hebrew qahal)

2. New Testament Usage:

a. A civil assembly (Acts 19:32, 39, 41)

b. All who belong to Christ, i. e. the "universal church" (Matthew
16:18, Ephesians 1:22, 5:23-32)

c. A local congregation (Revelation 2-3, Galatians 1:2)

II. The Founding of the Church

A. When? At Pentecost:

1. Matthew 16:18 - ". . . I will build . . . "

2. Acts 1:5 - Baptism with Holy Spirit to be soon.

3. Acts 2- Baptism with Holy Spirit occurs (cf. Acts 11:15-16).

4. I Corinthians 12:13 - Baptism with Spirit = Means of entrance to Body of Christ.

5. Colossians 1:24 - Body of Christ = the Church.

6. Therefore, the church began on Pentecost.

B. Who? First, Believing Israelites - Later, Believing Gentiles Also

1. The Commonwealth of Israel (Ephesians 2:11-3:12)

2. The Good Olive Tree (Romans 11:16-24)

3. The Marriage Feast (Matthew 22:1-14)

4. The Flock of God (John 10:16)

5. The Seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:16, 29)

6. Secular Illustrations:

a. The United States of America

b. The Birth of a Child

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE – Matthew 16:18 – “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock (the apostles) I will build my church, and the gates of hades (the grave itself) shall not prevail against it.”