

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

September 18, 2022

## The Mission of the Church Lesson 1 - ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia)

Today we begin a new sermon series called "The Mission of the Church." This series will focus on looking to scripture to better understand the Lord's Church and its purpose. In scripture the mission of the church can be covered by the following categories that we will be looking at in this series: **Worship, Edification, Benevolence, and Evangelism.**

However, before we get to the mission, we must first look at the church itself. What is it? How is it structured? Let's start by looking at the word that is used to reference the Lord's church over 100 times in the New Testament.

**ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia) - 1 Timothy 3:4-5; James 5:14; Revelation 1:4**

**1. M\_\_\_\_\_** - The word used for Church is ἐκκλησία **ekklēsia**, which is translated as "assembly" (3), "congregation" (2) or "church(es)" (109) in the New Testament. This word is made up of two Greek words: (1) ἐκ **ek** = "From out of" (2) καλέω **kaleō** = "To call"

So, when scripture is referring to the Lord's church, it is referring to those individuals who have been called out of the world by the gospel. Note **Romans 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, and 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14** where this explicit description is given of the church.

Only people can be "called" or "sanctified." Only people can respond to the gospel of Christ. So, the church is people who have been called out by God from the world. The church is not a building, it is people (**1 Peter 2:4-9**)!

**2. M\_\_\_\_\_** - There are two senses in which the word ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia) is used in scripture when referencing the Lord's church:

**Universal** - In these cases, the writer or speaker is referring to the church as a whole and not a specific, local body. (**Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:23-33; Colossians 1:18-24; Hebrews 12:22-23**)

**Local** - In these cases, the writer or speaker is referring to a specific, local body of the Lord's church (**Acts 13:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; Revelation 1:11; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1; 7:14**)



*"Exalt the Lord our God,  
and worship at His footstool  
- He is Holy"*

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BRING THE WHOLE OF YOUR OFFERING  
INTO THE STOREHOUSE OF THE LORD  
THAT THERE MAY BE PLENTY  
A BOUNTIFUL BLESSING FOR ALL  
IN THIS YOU MAY PROVE ME  
AND SEE THAT I WILL OPEN  
ALL OF HEAVEN'S GATES FOR YOU  
THE PROMISE I HAVE SPOKEN  
AND YOU SHALL NOT BE ABLE  
TO RECEIVE ALL OF MY BLESSINGS  
POURED OUT FROM MY ABUNDANCE  
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I ONLY WANT TO BLESS YOU  
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3. **M**\_\_\_\_\_ - In the New Testament, concepts from the physical world are frequently used to describe the ekklēsia's relationship to Christ and to each other:

**Bride (Ephesians 5:31-32; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7-8; 21:9)** - As the bride of Christ, we are reminded of both our relationship and commitment to Him. We can be connected to no other husband.

**Body (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 10:17; 12:12, 27; Ephesians 4:12; 5:23, 30; Colossians 1:24)** - The metaphor of the body helps to put into perspective both our relationship with Christ and with each other. We are His body because He is our savior, our master, our head. As part of the body, we must all work together in harmony utilizing our various abilities for the betterment of the whole. It emphasizes diversity and unity within those who are called out.

**Family (Matthew 12:49-50; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 5:1)** - Again, the concept of a spiritual family emphasizes our relationship with both God and our fellow members. God is our Father and our fellow members are our family. We should serve and obey our heavenly Father as we would our earthly father. We should show care and love for each other as we would our cherished family members.

**Building (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Peter 2:4-9)** - While the church is clearly not a building, sometimes scripture uses the metaphor of a building to emphasize how the church is built on Christ and His teachings. He is our foundation.

4. **M**\_\_\_\_\_ - So, who are those that are "called from out of" the world? Who are the members of the Lord's church? They are simply those who have made the decision to put their faith in Christ and follow Him in obedience. On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, **everyone** who responded to Peter's message, and was baptized, was added to the church (Acts 2:41, 47). There is no concept in scripture of a Christian who is not a member of the Lord's church.

## PRAYER LIST

- **Faye Waller** passed away yesterday morning
- **Bill Gillock** had a stroke
- We rejoice with **Kristine Garrett** as her cancer scans continue to be good, and her liver is now clear
- **Maria Hunter Harrington**, a friend of the Billingsleys, has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington, Carolyn Pennington** and **Judy Grissom**, relatives of the Reeds, have breast cancer. **Vicki Reed** has been diagnosed with Myeloma as well
- **Donna Rawls Head** has cancer
- Continue to pray for: those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Delores Coleman**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Gaynell Walker, Rosemary Douglas, Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**
- ★ There will be a men's meeting next Sunday afternoon at 5

## SERVING TODAY (September 18, 2022)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Read:** E. Walker  
**Prayer:** M. Reed

### WORSHIP

**Read:** R. Mayo  
**Wait On Table:** J. Gupton  
**Serve:** J. Walker, J. Demonbreun  
**Prayer:** L. Gregory