

For Our Information

Joyce Venable is feeling some better as she gets over bronchitis.

John LaValla was not feeling well this past Wednesday.

Jerry and Dottie Henderson, Dan's parents, are in Alaska this week. They should be flying back toward home on Monday of next week.

Pray for our children and grandchildren as they are in school with it's pressures and influences.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

was called a church (ekkleisia) whether assembled or unassembled. (**1Corinthians 1:1; 11:18; 14:19**).

So, it is important to carefully notice the context when reading the word "church" in the Bible. The context determines whether it is referring simply to all the redeemed everywhere; or a local organization of Christians at a particular place; or a physical assembly of these Christians.

(We need to exercise care when we speak to others about spiritual things. Too often we can be misunderstood simply because we fail to take the time to explain what we mean by certain words or phrases. These are not the only words that are misunderstood today. We need to not only be aware of their true use in Scripture but we must also help our listeners understand. Failing to do so could lead to someone thinking that they are pleasing to God though they are not living in accordance with His Will. DLH)

Seeking His Righteousness

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"Christians" And The "Church"

Edward O. Bragwell Sr.

In a world where the words "church" and "Christian" have been so twisted, it is hard to use either term without being misunderstood. Even among those identifying themselves with these terms – and they are Scriptural terms – it is easy to portray them in an unscriptural way. Because of this we need to constantly remind ourselves of how the terms were used in the first century, as recorded in the New Testament.

Even though "Christian" only

And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Acts 11:26



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

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appears three times in the New Testament, it is fairly easy to determine who these people were:

1. **They Were Disciples Of Christ.**

“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.” (Acts 11:26)

2. **As Disciples They Were Baptized Penitent Believers Committed To Observing All Things Commanded Of Christ.**

“Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

[Notice: what is to be done – “make disciples.” How is it to be done – 1) “baptizing them” ... and 2) “teaching them to observe all things ...” They do not, at the point of conversion, know all things commanded, but they are to be informed that they are committing to do all they find that Jesus commands of them.]

Church ...

The term mostly translated “church” (GR: ekklesia) is a group noun – like herd, flock, platoon, etc. Etymologically, it is a combination of two terms: “ek” meaning **Out Of** and “klesia” meaning **To Call**, hence it came to refer to an assembly of people called out of the general populace. It was not an happenstance gathering, but an assembly called together for a reason. It appears over 100 times in the New Testament. In **Acts 19**, it is used three times (verses **32**, **39**, and **41**) to designate an assembly of silversmiths called together by Demetrius (v. **24**). In

Store In My Heart

Acts 2:38

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This verse clearly states that baptism is necessary for one to receive salvation from God. Though many want to refute it, the language reveals to us that repentance and baptism bring forgiveness of our sins. Unless one has some personal desire to fulfill it is hard to misunderstand this verse.

If you want to please God, you will simply do as He has commanded by submitting to him completely. Put to death your old self, be buried with Christ in baptism, and rise out of that watery grave a child of God.

those verses, it is simply translated “assembly.” Though the assembly degenerated into a disorderly mob, it still had been called together by Demetrius for a reason and later dismissed by the town clerk.

It is the term used by Inspiration to designate all that host called out of their former state into fellowship with God (**Hebrews 12:22-24**). These are called together in one body, being united with Christ at baptism (**Romans 6:5**). This assembly (church) increases in size as often as people are saved (**Acts 2:47**). It is composed only of those whose names are written in heaven – the redeemed. Thus, every Christian is included in it. We generally refer to this as the “universal church” to distinguish it from local churches. This one church/body is not a confederation of churches. Yet, this is the impression that so many good people leave today as they speak of and discuss “the church of Christ” of which they belong. The one body (church) is made up individual Christians, not congregations. Only God determines and knows the number on its membership roll.

As the gospel spread from Jerusalem we read of various groups of disciples/Christians in various places. The writers used (ekklesia, assembly) to designate these local groups. (Cf. **Acts 9:31; 15:41; 20:17,28; 1Corinthians 1:2**). When the plural was used, it was speaking of different groups (churches) throughout a region or the world. (**Acts 9:31; Galatians 1:2; Romans 16:16**) Unlike the universal body, each of these was an independent functioning organization for doing the spiritual work prescribed in the Scriptures. Each managed its own affairs with its own internal leadership. Each of these local groups