**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**Introduction to the Course**

1. We will be examining the church of the New Testament and making application to the church of today. We will study the following areas:

A. Prophecy B. Preparation

C. Establishment D. Names and Terms

E. Growth F. Purpose

G. Organization H. Worship

I. Restoration J. Problems - Today

K. Problems - Future

2. I want to make the class as helpful to you as I can. I want you to comment, ask questions, discuss matters. The class will move at the pace you set. It will dig as deep as you want to go.

3. I am open to your suggestions about:

A. Taking notes on plain paper.

B. Letting me provide an outline with room for your notes.

C. Providing you with a full content outline of the material.

**Introduction to the Church**

I. Use and meaning of the word.

A. Some ways we MISUSE the word "church."

1. Building

2. Denominational

3. Position, set of teachings

B. Origin of the word:

1. Greek word - "ekklesia"

a. Ek = out, out of

b. Kalleo = to call

c. The called out ones 2 Thess. 2:14

d. Any called, planned assembly Acts 19:39-41

e. Is found 111 times in the KJV.

f. Is found 114 times in the NIV.

2. English word - "church"

a. Scottish word "Kirk"

b. "A place of worship"

C. Three ways the word is used in the New Testament.

1. Matt. 16:18 - Universal

2. Rom. 16:1 - Congregational

3. I Cor. 11:18 - Congregation assembled

II. Discuss:

A. Who makes up the church? Acts 2:47

B. What about the term "my church"?

C. How many churches are there?

D. Why did Jesus build the church?

**The Church in Prophecy**

I. Isaiah 2:1-4

A. In the last days

B. Lord's house shall be established

C. All nations shall flow unto it

D. From Jerusalem

E. Preach a message of peace, not war

II. Daniel 2:36-45

A. Head Gold Babylonian

B. Breast - arms Silver Medo-Persian

C. Belly - thighs Brass Greek

D. Legs - feet Iron - clay Roman

E. Crush image Stone Kingdom of God

F. Key phrases to notice:

1. In the days of these kings

2. Set up a kingdom

3. Not be left to other people

4. It shall stand for ever

III. Joel 2:28-32

A. Pour out my Spirit upon all flesh

B. Wonders in the heavens

1. Sun into darkness

2. Moon into blood

3. Before this great day comes

C. Call on the name of the Lord

D. In Jerusalem

IV. Other passages:

A. Micah 4:7 Remnant become a strong nation

B. Dan. 4:34 Kingdom is everlasting

C. Is. 62:2 New name

D. Is. 60:3 Gentiles in it

**The Church in Preparation**

I. Inter-Testament Period

A. Greek Period

1. Government

2. Postal system

3. Common language

4. LXX - Septuagint

B. Maccabean Period

1. Renewal of Temple

2. Renewal of sacrifices, worship, holy days

3. Anticipation of the Messiah

4. Development of the "synagogue"

C. Roman Period

1. Roads, travel

2. Common citizenship

3. World peace

II. John the Baptizer

A. Birth

B. Unusual lifestyle

C. His message

1. Mark 1:3 Prepare

2. Mark 1:4 Repent

D. His baptism

1. John 3:23 Much water - burial baptism

2. Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3 Remission of sins

3. Luke 7:29-30 Counsel of God

4. Acts 19:4 Faith in the coming Messiah

III. Ministry of Jesus

A. Matt. 5-7 Sermon on the Mount

B. Mark 1:14-15

1. Gospel

2. Time is come

3. Repent

4. Believe the gospel

IV. Limited Commission

A. Matt. 10:5 Restricted to Israel

B. Matt. 10:14 Don't wast time in unproductive areas

C. Matt. 10:16 Will face persecution and hardship

D. Matt. 10:37-40 Dedication and comittment required

V. Final Week

A. Matt. 23 Scribes and Pharisees

B. Matt. 23:37 Felt the rejection of his ministry

C. Luke 9:51-53 Headed for Jerusalem

**The Establishment of the Church**

I. The Waiting Acts 1

A. Who and How many

B. Where

C. What did they do?

1. Were united

2. Prayed

3. Replaced Judas

II. The Day of Pentecost

A. Lev. 23:15-21 Background

B. Events of the day

1. Sound

2. Cloven tongues

3. Filled with the Holy Spirit

4. Spoke with tongues

5. Multitude gathered

6. Charge made - Drunk with new wine

7. Peter's response to the charge

8. The sermon

I. Jesus was a man approved of God

II. You killed Him

III. God raised Him from the dead

IV. He is not Lord and Christ

9. Audience response

10. The commands and the promises

Commands Promises

Repent Remission of sins

Be baptized Gift of Holy Spirit

11. 3,000 were added

III. The following days.

A. Continued steadfastly in:

1. Apostles teaching

2. Fellowship

3. Breaking of bread

4. Prayers

B. Maintained unity and fellowship

1. Had all things in common

2. Shared all things

C. Were evangelistic

1. In the temple

2. House to house

3. Souls added daily

IV. Discuss:

A. What are tongues? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. What is the "gift of the Holy Spirit?" \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Names and Terms for the Church**

I. Descriptive terms for the church

A. Col. 1:13 Kingdom

1. Four things needed to have a kingdom

a. Territory

b. Law

c. Subjects

d. King

2. In Matthew the Kingdom of heaven is the church

B. I Tim. 3:15 Household of God

1. Gal. 6:10 Pay attention to family

2. Phil. 2:9-11 Wear family name

C. Col. 1:18 Body of Christ

1. I Cor. 12:14-25 Must work together

2. Eph. 1:22-23 Christ is the head

D. I Cor. 3:16 Temple

E. John 10:15-16 Flock

1. John 10:11 Jesus is the Good Shepherd

2. Acts 20:28 We are the flock of God

F. I Cor. 14:33 Saints

1. Separated, set apart with a purpose

2. II Tim. 2:21 meet for the Master's use

G. Rev. 21:9 Bride

H. Eph. 3:15 Family

I. II Tim. 2:3-4 Army

1. Eph. 6:11-18 Put on the armor

2. Heb. 2:9-10 Jesus is our captain

J. John 15:1-8 Vineyard

1. Matt. 20:1-16

2. We must bear fruit

II. Terms applied to the members of the church

A. Acts 11:26 Christian 3

B. Phil. 4:21 Saint 62

C. Acts 16:1 Disciple 268

D. Col.1:2 Brother 346

E. Rom. 12:4-5 Member 22

III. Parables of the Kingdom in Matt. 13

A. Sower 3-9

B. Tares 24-30

C. Mustard seed 31-32

D. Leaven 33

E. Treasure 44

F. Merchant man 45-46

G. Net 47-50

IV. Discuss:

A. What should we put on the sign out front?

B. Why are some of these terms used and others not used?

**The Growth of the Church**

I. The New Testament Church Grew

A. Acts 1:15 120

B. I Cor. 15:6 500

C. Acts 2:41 3,000 added

D. Acts 2:47 additions daily

E. Acts 4:4 5,000 men

F. Acts 5:14 multitudes of men and women

G. Acts 6:7 disciples multiplied

H. Acts 8:4 scattered everywhere

I. Acts 8:6 people listened to the gospel

J. Acts 9:31 multiplied

K. Acts 9:35 Lydda and Saron (towns)

L. Acts 11:21 Great number turned to the Lord

M. Acts 21:20 many thousands of Jews believed

II. Why are we NOT growing?

A. We make excuses

1. People are too prejudiced to listen

2. No prospects

3. Town is wrong size

4. Busy in building program

5. Lack of leadership

6. We are too small. Need a big program.

7. If we had a good preacher

B. Reasons we are not evalgelizing

1. Think it is too hard

2. Confusion over too many methods

3. Lost are not really lost

4. Sincerity in religion is enough

5. Lost our vision, focus, mission purpose

C. Major ingredients of church growth

1. Lack of personal commitment to Christ

2. Lack of sense of mission of church

3. Lack of proper stewardship

D. "Keep Out" signs

1. Handicapped - blind, deaf, wheelchairs

2. Social - race prejudice, social class

3. Building - parking lot, ramp, reserved spaces

III. Discuss:

A. How big should the church be?

B. Why do you think we are reaching out?

C. Does the message need to change?

D. Does the method need to change?

**The Purpose of the Church**

I. Proclaim the gospel

A. Preach - to deliver a message, discourse

B. Teach - to explain, expound, assist in understanding

C. Evangelize - tell the good news

D. Some details

1. Who? I Tim. 2:8-15

2. Methods - VBS, Meetings, radio, TV, newspaper

II. Edify the saints

A. Classes - S.S., VBS, workshops, singings

B. Individually - "Be a Barnabas" Acts 4:36;9:27

III. Fellowship with Others

A. Define

1. Wrong

2. Greek

3. N. T. Church

B. Group fellowship

1. II John 1:9-11

2. I Cor. 5:11-13

3. II Thess. 3:6; 14-15

C. Personal fellowship

1. Visit Ja. 1:27

2. Share Acts 4:32, 34

IV. Worship

A. Assemble together

B. Worship is both:

1. Personal

AND 2. Corporate

V. Protection

A. Security in numbers

B. Doctrinal purity

C. Moral integrity

D. Strong will help the weak

**The Organization of the Church**

I. In Authority

CHRIST

ELDERS DEACONS PREACHERS

MEMBERS

II. The Chain of Command

CHRIST

ELDERS

DEACONS PREACHERS

MEMBERS

III. In Service

MEMBERS

ELDERS DEACONS PREACHERS

CHRIST

IV. In Teaching

CHRIST

PREACHRS

ELDERS DEACONS

MEMBERS

V. In Location

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

| M D M E |

| M E M M D |

| M P M D M |

| CHRIST |

| M M M M M D |

| E M M D P |

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**The Worship of the Church**

I. When?

A. Acts 20:7

B. I Cor. 16:2

II. How? Avenues of worship

A. Sing

1. What - Psalms, Hymns, Sp. songs

2. What instrument - strings of the heart

3. Who - all who are happy

B. Pray

1. Who - I Tim. 2:8

2. When - without ceasing

3. Why - praise, request for help, gratitude

C. Give

1. How much - as prospered

2. When - 1st day of week

3. Is this worship? - truest form

D. Communion

1. Elements

a. Unleavened bread

b. Fruit of the vine

2. When - 1st day of week

3. How - "worthily" not "unworthily"

4. Who - those in the kingdom

E. Study

1. Three elements of study

a. Read the Bible

b. Search - study, memorize, understand

c. Meditate - apply, dwell on, hold within

2. Some methods

a. Topical - this class

b. Book by book

c. Paragraph by paragraph

3. In worship - the sermon

4. In groups - class

5. In personal life - daily study

III. Why?

A. Express your heart

B. Praise, thanksgiving, gratitude

C. Support, help, strength

D. Sense of belonging, community, in common

IV. Discuss:

A. Do Wednesday nights count?

B. Have to attend on Sunday night?

C. Are all 5 avenues necessary for worship?

**Problems of the Church - Today**

I. Our Plea is Unity

A. "Speak where the Bible speaks."

B. "In faith - unity; in opinion - liberty; in all things - love"

C. John 17:20-21

II. Our Practice is Division

A. "Where the Saints Meet"

B. Look what we divide over -

1. How many cups in communion

2. Who should break the bread

3. How to care for the needy

4. Who can preach

5. Classes for children

III. Why are there so many divisions?

A. Tradition becomes Law

B. Selfishness - Burger King - "Have it your way" C. Argue ourselves into a corner

1. Defend our position

2. Look for scripture that will defend us

3. Make it a doctrinal matter

D. Third generation

1. First generation - Zeal, fervor

2. Second generation - Form, fine tune, structure

3. Third generation - Status quo, defend what is established, resist change

**Problems of the Church - Future**

I. Does the church have a future?

A. Universal church, Yes!

1. Dan. 2:44

2. Matt. 16:18

3. Luke 8:11 seed is Word of God

4. I Pet. 1:23-25 Seed will last forever

B. Local congregations, Yes, if...

1. Rev. 2:4-5 remove lampstand

2. Rev. 1:20 lampstand = churches

II. The future of any local congregation depends on:

A. Ability to recognize dangers

1. Doctrinal

2. Immorality

3. Trends

B. Respect for authority

1. Elders

2. Deacons

3. Preachers

4. The Bible

C. Baby boomers

1. Materialistic

2. Less discipline

3. Less dedication

D. Today's youth

1. Elders

2. Preachers

3. Deacons

4. Ask, "What do you want to be in the church?

III. Destiny of the Church

A. Eph. 5:27 Presented to Jesus

B. Matt. 10:32 Confess all true believers

1. Matt. 3:12 Wheat from chaff

2. Matt. 25:32-33 Sheep from goats

3. Matt. 13:30 Wheat from tares

4. Matt. 7:21-23 True workers from false workers

C. Share the victory

1. Rom. 8:13; I John 5:4-5 Over sin

2. Rev. 3:21 Over the world

3. I John 3:8 Over Satan

4. I Cor. 15:54-58 Over death

D. I Cor. 15:24-25 Delivered to God