

1 BIBLE BASICS

2 Review of Aspects of Salvation, p.3

1 What are the 3 stages of sanctification?

Past (salvation), Present (this life), Future (when we see Christ)

When will our adoption by God be fully complete?

When he takes us to heaven

2 Which keeps the Christian securely saved, doing right or God's promise?

God's Promise

What is the Christian's glorification?

Being changed into Christ's image when we see Him

3 Church: Introduction

Biblically, what is a church?

4 The Greek word "ekklesia"

■ The word "church" comes from the Greek word *ekklesia* refers to "a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place", a called out assembly.

➤ The meeting may be secular or religious.

➤ It never referred to a building.

■ The word is found 115 times in 112 verses of the New Testament (118 times if you include footnotes).

5 The Greek word "ekklesia"

■ In the KJV Bible, *ekklesia* is always translated "church" referring to a called out assembly of Christians with four exceptions.

➤ In Acts 7:38, it refers to the assembly of Israel in the Old Testament.

➤ In Acts 19:32, 39, 41, it is translated assembly, referring to a secular assembly

6 The English word "church"

■ Origin: Old English cir(i)ce, cyr(i)ce, related to Dutch kerk and German Kirche, based on medieval Greek kurikon, from Greek kuriakon (dōma) 'Lord's (house)'.

■ The 1395 Wycliffe translation used the word "church" (chirche).

■ The 1525 Tyndale version translated *ekklesia* properly, as "congregacion".

7 The English word "church"

■ A definition-based English translation of *ekklesia* would be either assembly or congregation as it refers to the gathering of people, not to a building.

■ We use the word "church", not because it fits the definition, but because it is the common term in English.

8 A church is a local assembly

■ The word *ekklesia* implies a local gathering. It cannot be a "called out assembly" without it being in a local place.

■ Nearly all the 115 references to *ekklesia* in the New Testament clearly refer to a local congregation. For example:

➤ Acts 8:3 "As for Saul, he made havock of the church ..." (at Jerusalem)

9 A church is a local assembly

➤ Acts 9:31 "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria ..."

➤ Acts 14:27 "And when they were come, and had gathered the church together ..."

➤ Acts 15:22 "Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; ..." see also Acts 15:41; 1Cor 14.33; 2Cor 8:18; Gal 1:22.

10 A church is a local assembly

■ Once, *ekklesia* refers to a future general assembly in heaven.

➤ Hebrews 12:23 "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"

11 A church is a local assembly

■ Sometimes the word *ekklesia* represents any local assembly. It speaks of no particular church, but it refers to the institution – any church or every church.

➤ This is the same way words like "heart" (Jer 17:9) and "marriage" (Heb 13:4) are used. Here are a few examples of how *ekklesia* is used of the institution of a local church.

12 A church is a local assembly

➤ Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

➤ 1 Corinthians 15:9 "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

➤ (Ephesians 5:25) "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

➤ (Ephesians 5:32) "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

13 A broader view of the church

■ *Ekklesia*, as used in these and similar verses, is often called the "universal church", referring to the overall body of Christ, including all true Christians of all ages.

■ While this interpretation is conceivable, it stretches the meaning of *ekklesia*. It never preforms earthly duties of a local church.*

■ Perhaps these scriptures speak of the local assembly of all true believers that will gather around the throne of God in heaven.

14 What makes a church biblical?

■ Not all "churches" are biblical local churches. To be a biblical church ...

➤ It must proclaim repentance and salvation by faith in Christ alone.

➤ Its members must be saved by faith and immersed.

➤ It must hold to biblical doctrine and biblical practice.

■ Christ is the head of each local church.

■ Each local church is to be a type of the future assembly in heaven.

- 15 ☐ ■ Every Christian ought to be a member of a local church.
- Church: Introduction Review**
- 1 ☐ What is an ekklesia?
a called out assembly
 What would be a good English rendering of ekklesia?
Congregation or Assembly
 Why is the term "Universal Church" a questionable rendering of ekklesia?
It stretches the literal meaning
- 2 ☐ Name some things that identify a church as being biblical
Salvation by faith, saved immersed membership, biblical doctrine and biblical practice
 An earthly local church is a type of what?
The heavenly assembly of believers
- 16 ☐ **Let's Get Practical**
- If you move to a new area, what ought you look for in a local church?