

WHY THE CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING

Garland M. Robinson

People today so often refer to a building when they speak of the church. They may say, “isn’t that a beautiful church” or “where is the church located?” However, the Lord’s church is not a building or physical structure.

The church is a *spiritual body* (John 18:36) made up of people who have obeyed the Gospel (1 Peter 4:17). When Peter preached on Pentecost we read, “*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls*” (Acts 2:41). Those who obey the Gospel (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9) by *believing in Jesus, repenting of sins, confessing faith in Jesus* and being *baptized in water for the remission of sins* (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:37; 22:16) are added to the church by God (Acts 2:47). The church is the *spiritual body* of Christ, the *redeemed* (Titus 2:14), the body of those who are saved (Eph. 5:23).

That which is said of the church cannot be said of a building. A building cannot be *gathered together* (Acts 14:27) or send people *on their way* (Acts 15:3), but the church can. The church can *receive*

people into their midst (Acts 15:4). The church can be *greeted* (Acts 18:22) as well as *send greetings* (Rom. 16:23). The church has *elders, deacons and servants* (Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1; Rom. 16:1). It even has *ears* (Acts 11:22). The church can *pray* (Acts 12:5), be *fed* (Acts 20:28), *edified* (1 Cor. 14:12), *persecuted* (1 Cor. 15:9), *offended* (1 Cor. 10:32), *despised* (1 Cor. 11:22), *taken care of* (1 Tim. 3:5), *written to* (3 John 1:9) and can *give and receive* financial assistance (Phil. 4:15).

The church is the *body of Christ* (Eph. 1:22-23), *the house of God, the pillar and ground of the truth* (1 Tim. 3:15). It *makes known the wisdom of God* to the world (Eph. 3:10). It brings *glory* to God (Eph. 3:21). It is *loved* by Christ and *subject* to Christ (Eph. 5:24-25). It is *glorious, holy and without blemish, having no spot, wrinkle or any such thing* (Eph. 5:27). The Lord *nourishes and cherishes* the church (Eph. 5:29). None of this is true of a building.

Are YOU a member of the church of Christ? Why not study and obey the Gospel today?