

WHAT IS THE CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

The word church means: “CALLED OUT.” Those who are members of the church are “called out” of the world and added to the Lord’s church (which is his body). Several things need to be understood in regards to the church.

Christ is the HEAD of the church. God the Father “...*hath put all things under his [Christ’s] feet, and gave him to be **the head** over all things to the church, Which is his body...*” (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).

The church brings GLORY to God. “*Unto him be glory in the church...*” (Eph. 3:21). Men often seek to bring glory to God through Benevolent and Fraternal Organizations. But, no glory is found in men’s societies. It is in the church that God receives glory.

The church makes known God’s ETERNAL PURPOSE. Ephesians 3:9-11 says, “*And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God ...To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places **might be known by the church** the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he pur-*

posed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The church PROCLAIMS God’s message. The Lord’s people, through and by the church, preach the Gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20).

The church is made up of the SAVED. “...*Christ is the head of the church: and **he is the saviour of the body***” (Eph. 5:23). Jesus never promised to save anything but his body. The Bible says there is “one body;” and, it is His church, the church of Christ (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23).

People are added by God to the Lord’s church — they do not join the church. “...*They that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were **added** unto them about three thousand souls*” (Acts 2:41). “...*The Lord **added** to the church...*” (Acts 2:47). God adds those who have humbly **repented** of their sins (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3), **confessed** faith in Christ (Acts 8:37) and been **baptized** for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21).

Have you been added to the Lord’s church? If not, you cannot be saved because that’s where God puts the saved!

—Garland M. Robinson