

THE CHURCH IN HISTORICAL-THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

I. Some General Notes:

A. The choice of this discussion

(Background)

B. Defining the term "church" (ecclesia)..a called out company regardless as to how or why it is called out....a gathering of persons for a particular purpose. The English word "church" is derived from an Anglo Saxon root "circe" (kirk) and associated with the Geek word "kurios" (lord). "Ecclesia" is any sort of calling out...."church" is tied to religious ideals.

The term is used to define an institution identified with the Lord. The Lord viewed it as a "body" (Eph 1:22-23) and a "bride"(Ephesians 5: 25-27).. As Israel was noted as the "wife of Jehovah", the church is seen as the "bride of Christ"

C. Essential Scriptures: Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 5:22-23, Colossians 1:24

D. In practicality the use of the term is very broad. It may indicate a building, a denomination, a congregation, etc. or have an adjectival use as well. But when we speak of it theologically we are speaking of a called out company...a gathering of parties or persons who in principle are yielded to the Lord and obedient to His Name.

II. The Church of the New Testament (first message)

A. The Redemptive Program of the Lord....Genesis 3 and following to the point of the church in Matthew 1:21

B. The Promise: Matthew 16:18 "You are Petros, on this Petra I will build my church" The Apostle is Peter, "Petra" is the great weight of his confession "You are the Christ..." The man is very small, the eternal truth is a massive statement of the salvation economy,.

C. The fulfillment: Acts 1: the coming of the promised Spirit and the empowering of the witness.

1. This is the founding of the church body politic
2. This is the fulfillment of the church body spiritual.

D. The Order:

Mat. 18:13-26

Eph. 5:23

The words

Isaiah 50:1 (Hosea)

The church exists to honor the Lord Jesus and to carry out the testimony of God.

*1:8
2:4, 5, 47*