

CHURCH

- I. Place for the dissemination of Spiritual Soul Food.
- II. Original churches met in homes.
- III. The Church was established for the purpose of spiritual advancement.
- IV. God has ordained that there be a Shepherd-teacher for the local congregation.
- V. When a congregation has grown consistently over a period of years the forms of worship will be manifested: 1. Grace orientation, 2. Gratitude, 3. Witnessing, 4. Giving, 5. Teaching, 6. Service.
- VI. The word "church" (ἐκκλησία) is used five ways:
 1. Citizens gathering for political affairs, legislative meetings (Acts 19:25, 29,32).
 2. In the OT the word was used for the assembly of Israel (Acts 7:38).
 3. There is a reference to the synagogue as the ἐκκλησία in Matthew 18:17. Jews met to worship. The church actually did not exist at that time.
 4. The body of Christ is made up of all believers – the Church Universal (revealed in Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; Colossians 1:17, 18).
 5. The Church is also used to mean a local group. This is the geographical, *visible* church, made up of both believers and unbelievers (I Corinthians 1:2; Revelation 2, 3; I Thessalonians 1:1).
- VII. The church began on the day of Pentecost, and terminates with the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I John 3:1, 2; John 14:1-3).
- VIII. The *mystery* character of the church is depicted in the Epistles – Ephesians 3:1-6; Colossians 1:25, 26; Romans 16:25, 26. Mystery does not mean *unknown*, but *hidden in the past* (Old Testament) and *now revealed*.
- IX. Born-again Jews on the Day of Pentecost were placed in Union with Jesus Christ and baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5; John 7:39). At the departure of Christ the Church actually began.
- X. The Church Age ends with the Rapture of the Royal family. The following verses show that at the Second Advent the Church will come back to the earth with Christ: I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Colossians 2:14, 15, compared to Revelation 19:6-8; Zechariah 13:2, I Thessalonians 3:13. At the end of the Church Age, the Bride – in resurrected body – will be glorified, just as at the beginning of the Church Age, Christ – in resurrected body – was glorified.