



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries
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EKKLESIA

ekklesia ^1577^, from ek, "out of," and klesis, "a calling" (kaleo, "to call"), was used among the Greeks of a **body of citizens** "gathered" to discuss the affairs of state, <Acts 19:39>. In the Sept. it is used to designate the "**gathering**" of **Israel**, summoned for any definite purpose, or a "gathering" regarded as representative of the whole nation. In <Acts 7:38> it is used of a **riotous mob** in <19:32,41>, of.

It has **two applications** to companies of Christians, (1) **to the whole company** of the redeemed throughout the present era, the company of which Christ said, "I will build My Church," <Matt. 16:18>, and which is further described as "the Church which is His Body," <Eph. 1:22; 5:23>, (2) **in the singular number- TO A LOCAL CHURCH** e. g., <Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:13; 1 Thes. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:5>, and in the plural, with reference to churches in a district.

The word **ekklesia** is used in two verses only in the gospels.

1) ***Matt 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.***

This is Christ prophesying about the Church.

2) ***Matt 18:17 - If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.***

This is instructions as to what to do when a believer has sinned against you. "Tell it to the church" meant to tell it to the leaders in the assembly, the synagogue. The church had not yet begun at the time this was written.

The first time the word "ekklesia" is used in the N.T. outside of the gospels is in:
Acts 2:47 And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
(KJV)

Acts 2:47 And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
(NIV)

Acts 2:47 And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved. (ASV)

This refers to believers living in the Church Age who are the Royal Family of God having been Baptized by the Holy Spirit are therefore sanctified in Christ Jesus.

The word “church” is used over 70 times in the N.T.

The word “Christian” (CHRISTIANOS) is used only twice in the Bible :

1) **Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.(KJV)**

2) **1 Pet 4:16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. (NIV)**

The word “Christians” (CHRISTIANOUS) occurs only once:

Acts 11:26 And it came to pass, that even for a whole year they were gathered together with the church, and taught much people, and that the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Christianity was sometime referred to as “the Way” “HODOU” Acts 9:2, 18:25, 19:9 & 23, 22:4, 24:14 This no doubt came from John 14:6 – I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life ...