



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY NOTE

ON

THE ARK OF GOD FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

STUDY 3- CHURCH (PART A)

TEXT: Matthew 16:16-19, 28:16-20

Part A: Brief description

The word “**church**” is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, which is defined as “**an assembly**” or “**called-out ones**.” The root meaning of *church* is **not that of a building or a denomination**, but of **people**. Rom. 16:5

The church is the **body of Christ**, of which He is **the head**. Eph. 1:22-23. The body of Christ is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) until Christ’s return. Biblically, we may regard the church in **two ways**, as the **universal church** or as the **local church**.

The universal church consists of everyone, everywhere, who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. 1Cor. 12:13. All those who have received salvation through **faith** in Jesus Christ comprise the universal church.

The Local churches are gatherings of people who claim the name of Christ. Members of a local church may or may not be members of the universal church, depending on the genuineness of their faith. The local church is where believers can fully apply the “body” principles of 1 Corinthians chapter 12—encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in **the knowledge and grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ. Gal.1:1-2

Members of the universal church should seek fellowship and edification in a local church.

The Founder of the Church

Jesus Christ is the founder and foundation of the Universal Church. Local Churches that are not built upon Jesus as their foundation **will not survive**. However, if Jesus is the foundation, then the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it. People have been called to organize fellowships and local churches, but Jesus is the only founder of the Universal Church. Matthew 16:16-19

The Greek word *ekklesia* was not unfamiliar to the disciples because the same word was used to describe the popular Greek assemblies of that day. However, Jesus’ Church was to be **different** from those assemblies because He is the only Possessor of this Church; neither the High Priest, Sanhedrin Counsel, Jews, Gentiles, Deacons, Members nor the Pastors would possess His Church. He Said, “**Upon this Rock, I will build My Church.**”

NEXT: We’ll be looking at the purpose of the Church