



Where Eagles Dare

"Church"

By Al Collins

What does the word "church" mean to God?

Right after Pentecost in **Acts 2** when "all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" (**Acts 2:4**), we are told what Christians did, "⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." **Acts 2:42-47**

Notice that God doesn't call this "church" or "going to church". So where did the word "church" and what it has become as we know it today come from?

There are two Greek words "kuriakos" and "ecclesia" that have been mistranslated to the word "church".

Kuriakos appears in the New Testament only twice and it refers to "the Lord's supper" in **1 Corinthians 11:20** and in **Revelation 1:10** it refers to "the Lord's day"... both times translated "the Lord's... not "church".

The Greek word "ecclesia" appears about 115 times in the New Testament, as well as in other forms. In every instance, except three, it is wrongly translated as "church" in the King James Version. Those three exceptions are found in **Acts 19:32, 39, and 41**.

In these instances it is translated "assembly" instead of "church." But, the Greek word is exactly the same as the other 112 entries where it was wrongly changed to "church".

This fact has been covered-up under centuries of misuse and ignorance. The Greek word "ecclesia" is correctly defined as: "The called-out (ones)" [ECC = out; KALEO = call]. An "ecclesia" was a civil assembly in Athens even before the writing of the New Testament. Thus, you can see how this word was used by the Greeks to indicate a civil body of select (called, elected) people.

Thus, two of the most prestigious word resources in the English language confirm the fact that an "ecclesia" was originally a select civil body, summoned or convoked for a particular purpose.

What, then, did the writers of the New Testament mean when they used the word "ecclesia" to describe a Christian body of people?

They intended to convey the original Greek meaning of the word: a body of Christians called out of the Roman and Judean system to come together into a separate spiritual community. It meant a politically autonomous body of Christians under no king but Jesus; under no other jurisdiction but that of Jesus. No person, government or organization ruled them... only Christ. And that was the reason these same Christians ran into trouble with kings and rulers; were arrested, crucified and martyred.

They dropped Caesar and the religious system as their king and took up Christ!

In **Acts 17:1-6** Paul and Silas had a reputation that preceded them. They were "turning the world (system) upside down." What was their inflaming message? Were they telling the people to find a pastor or priest and support him; go to church every weekend; be nice to their neighbors; build seminaries? Could this have been the message that set the city officials and Rome against them? Were they asking people to send their tithes to them so they could build a pretty "church", develop a Christian recreation center or buy a mansion for themselves? No! What then? What were these guys doing that was "turning the world system upside down"? The answer is found in **Acts: 7-8**, "and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." ⁸ When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil."

Paul and Silas weren't "church builders"... they were spiritual kingdom builders! They were forming spiritual bodies that no longer looked to Caesar as their king. They were dethroning physical rulers and physical governments in the minds of the people and alienating them from the mental hold Caesar (the world) had upon them through heathenistic physical governments. They were teaching the principles of a Christian spiritual government.

Paul and Silas were forming spiritual outposts (forts) for Christ's conquering army! They were at war!

Independent self-government under Christ! That is what ecclesia represents - not a religious organization for meeting on weekends in a building. The Bible doesn't indicate that "churches" would eventually take the place of ecclesias.

There is NO Scriptural authority for Christians to build churches, attend churches, or support churches!

God-designed ecclesia was slowly ignored and exchanged in favor of the man-designed physical "church"... man-made, worldly religious organizations designed by and for the worldly.

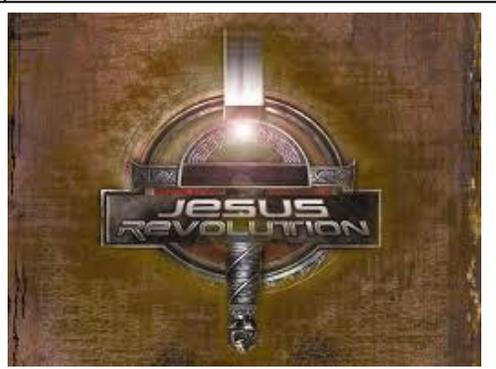
William Tyndale was willing to die for God's Word and truth. He didn't like the word "church." Godly Tyndale, and other sixteenth-century reformers who were more reputable, also did not like the word "church."

They used other words like "congregation," "governmental assembly," etc.

(*William Tyndale was the fifteenth century reformer and Bible translator murdered by "the church".)

We should be forming and defending spiritual ecclesias instead of physical "churches" that promote entertainment, control tactics, legalism, or man-made and false teachings that are generating false converts.

If you profess to follow Christ, then it's time you quit voluntarily feeding the anti-Christ beast. Christians who want to sincerely follow Christ must wean themselves from worldly governments and dead churches. It is the height of absurdity for a Christian to attend and support the very institutions which are destroying their relationship with God. Those who voluntarily support man-made religious "church" systems, by believing and teaching that they are good, or that they help us, or that we need them, are still living in a dream world of deception. The spiritual ecclesia system, with its Theocratic government, is capable of freeing us from the bondage of religion. True peace and liberty cannot be found outside of Christ's system. Christ's system is the spiritual ecclesia system! Freedom awaits all those who will break away from the religious slavery of "church" and become a humble bond slave of Jesus Christ. We must stop the religious hypocrisy by idolizing man, the world, world governments, and "the world's church" and be called out (ecclesia) of these systems to let Christ once and for all be our King!



The majority of Christians have departed from the pattern laid down in the book of Acts and have built, according to their own wisdom, an artificial, phony, broken, religious mess called "church". It's time to REVOLT against the wisdom of our religious flesh and get back to the wisdom of and spiritual building plan of God. It's time to re-evaluate and re-examine everything about how you think true followers of Jesus should live.

**It's time for REVOLUTION
against DEAD RELIGION!**