

ECCLESIOLOGY:

Lesson 01

The Study of the Church

Outline:

- Preliminary considerations
- The elements that should be covered
- A suggested structure for study

Systematic Considerations:

“Like every true science, Systematic theology is interdependent and interrelated in all its parts. The astronomer or chemist would not attempt to organize his materials or to reach dependable conclusions with a third of the elements or facts pertaining to his science unaccounted for. Nor should the theologian expect to reach any true estimation of his various doctrines when vast fields of the divine revelation have been eliminated from his consideration. Theologians, more than any other scientists, are apt to be bound by tradition or mere sectarian prejudice. The field of investigation is no less than the entire Bible, which field extends beyond the boundaries of creeds and that limited body of truth which was recovered in the Reformation.”

- Lewis Sperry Chafer (Vol. 1, pg. 11)

Word Study:

- “Ek” – preposition meaning “out of”
- “Kaleo” – meaning “to call” or “summon”

Word Study:

New Testament:

- Appears in NT 115 X's
- Translated in NT (NKJV)
 - "church" 110 X's
 - "assembly" 4 X's
 - "congregation" 1X

Word Study:

Septuagint:

- Appears in LXX 75 X's
- Translated in LXX
 - “contingent”
 - “assembly”
 - “convocation”
 - “congregation”

Word Study:

Biblical Usage:

- Jewish assembly (Acts 7: 38; Hebrews 2: 12)
- Non-religious assembly (Acts 19: 32, 39, 41)
- The Church (Acts 2: 47)

What is “Ecclesiology”:

- Ek = out of
- Kaleo = to call out
- Logos = word

Summary:

Ecclesiology is a study of that biblical concept of those called out by God.

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The elements that should be covered:

- Definition
- Origin of the Church
- Nature of the Church
- Members of the Church
- Distinction of the Church
- Leadership of the Church
- Organization of the Church
- Purpose of the Church
- Ordinances of the Church

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A suggested structure for study:

- I. The principles for the study of the Church
 - A. Word study
 - B. Definition
 - C. Systematic considerations
- II. The concept of the Church
 - A. The origin of the Church
 - B. The distinction of the Church
 - C. The universal Church
 - D. The local Church
 - E. The figures of the Church
- III. The function of the Church
 - A. The purpose
 - B. The leadership
 - C. The organization
 - D. The ordinances
 - E. The Ministry
- IV. The Church in time
 - A. The Church past (Church history)
 - B. The Church present
 - C. The Church future

Four reasons why the Church began at Pentecost:

1. “That there could be no Church in the world – constituted as she is and distinctive in all her features – until Christ’s death; for her relation to that death is not a mere anticipation, but is based wholly on His finished work and she must be purified by His precious blood.”

- Lewis Sperry Chafer

Four reasons why the Church began at Pentecost:

2. “There could be no Church on earth until Christ could provide her with resurrection life”

- Lewis Sperry Chafer

Four reasons why the Church began at Pentecost:

3. “There could be no Church until He had ascended up on high to become her Head; for she is a New Creation with a new federal headship in the resurrected Christ. He is, likewise, to her as the head is to the body. Nor could the Church survive for a moment were it not for His intercession and advocacy in heaven”

- Lewis Sperry Chafer

Four reasons why the Church began at Pentecost:

4. “There could be no Church on earth until the advent of the Holy Spirit; for the most basic and fundamental reality respecting the Church is that she is a temple for the habitation of God through the Spirit. She is regenerated, baptized, and sealed by the Spirit.”

- Lewis Sperry Chafer

How do I know I am in the Church:

- **1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**