

# The Doctrine of the Church



## The Nature of the Church

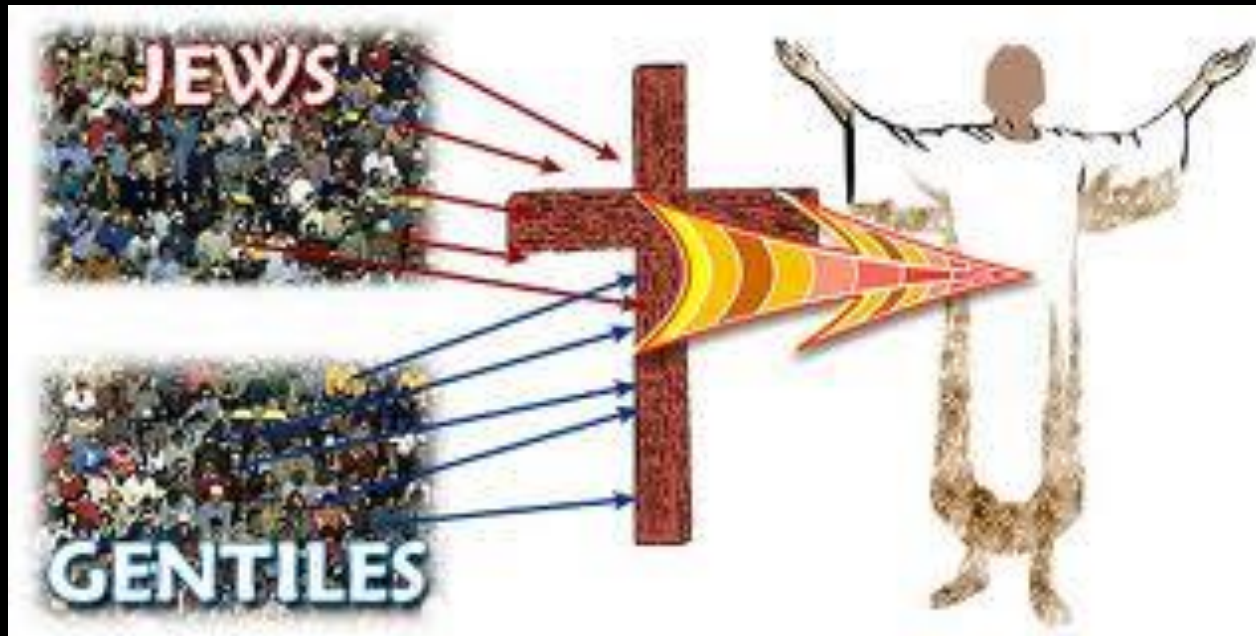
*“The characteristics and inherent features of the Church”*



WHAT THE  
**CHURCH**  
IS & IS NOT

**The Church considered from a  
negative viewpoint.  
*(What the Church is not)***

- It is not a new name for Israel – *(1 Corinthians 10:32)*  
*“Give none offence, neither to the Jews (Israel), nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.”*



- Covenant theologians teach that the church has become God's elect people, as Israel once was.
- This is not the case, as seen by the following arguments.



# 1. The promises are different.

- The promises and provisions concerning Israel were basically earthly in scope (*see Exod. 15:26; Deut. 28*)
- The promises concerning the Church are basically heavenly in scope (*see Eph. 1:3; Col. 3:1-3*)

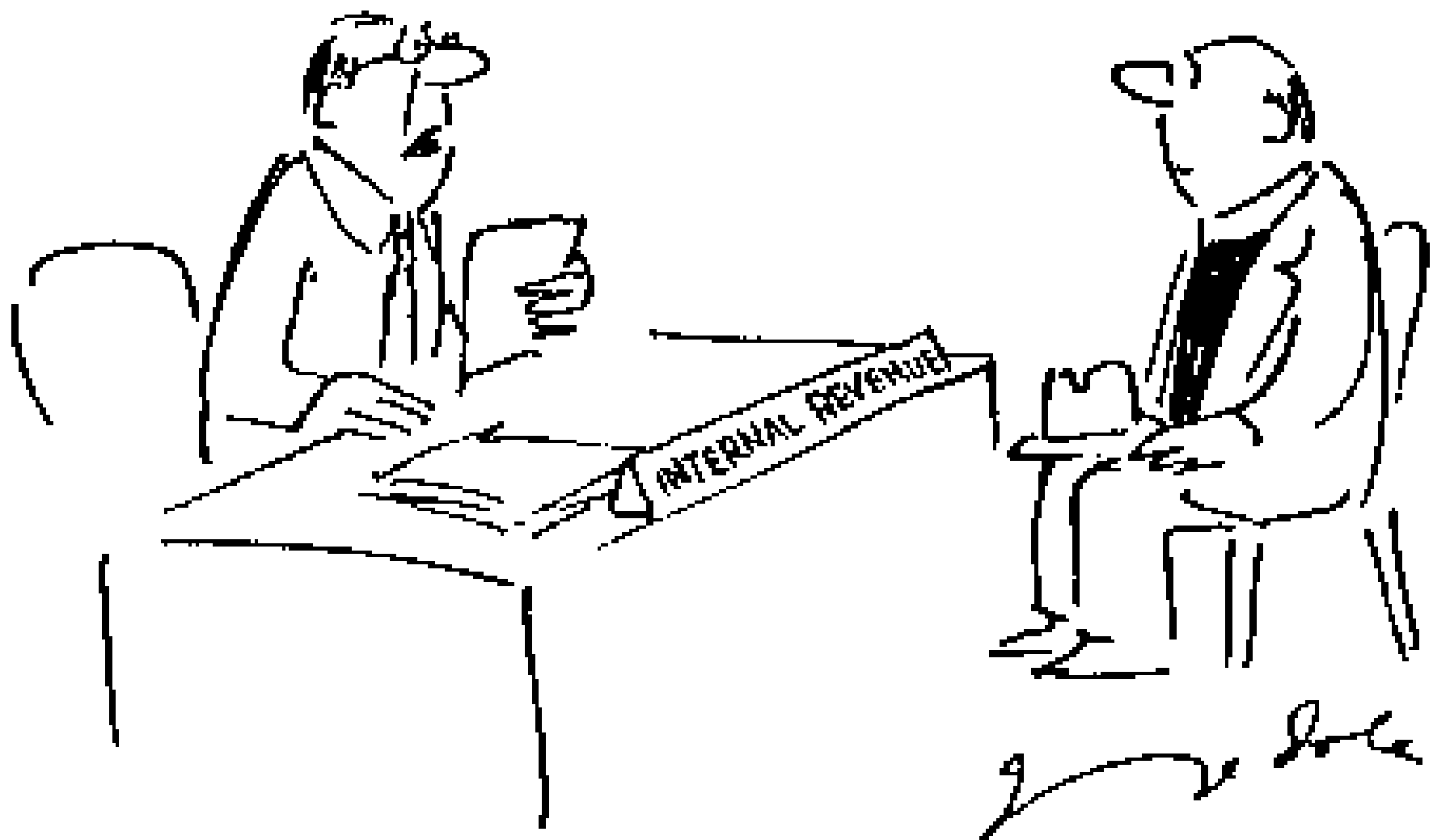


Spiritual  
Blessings  
in CHRIST JESUS

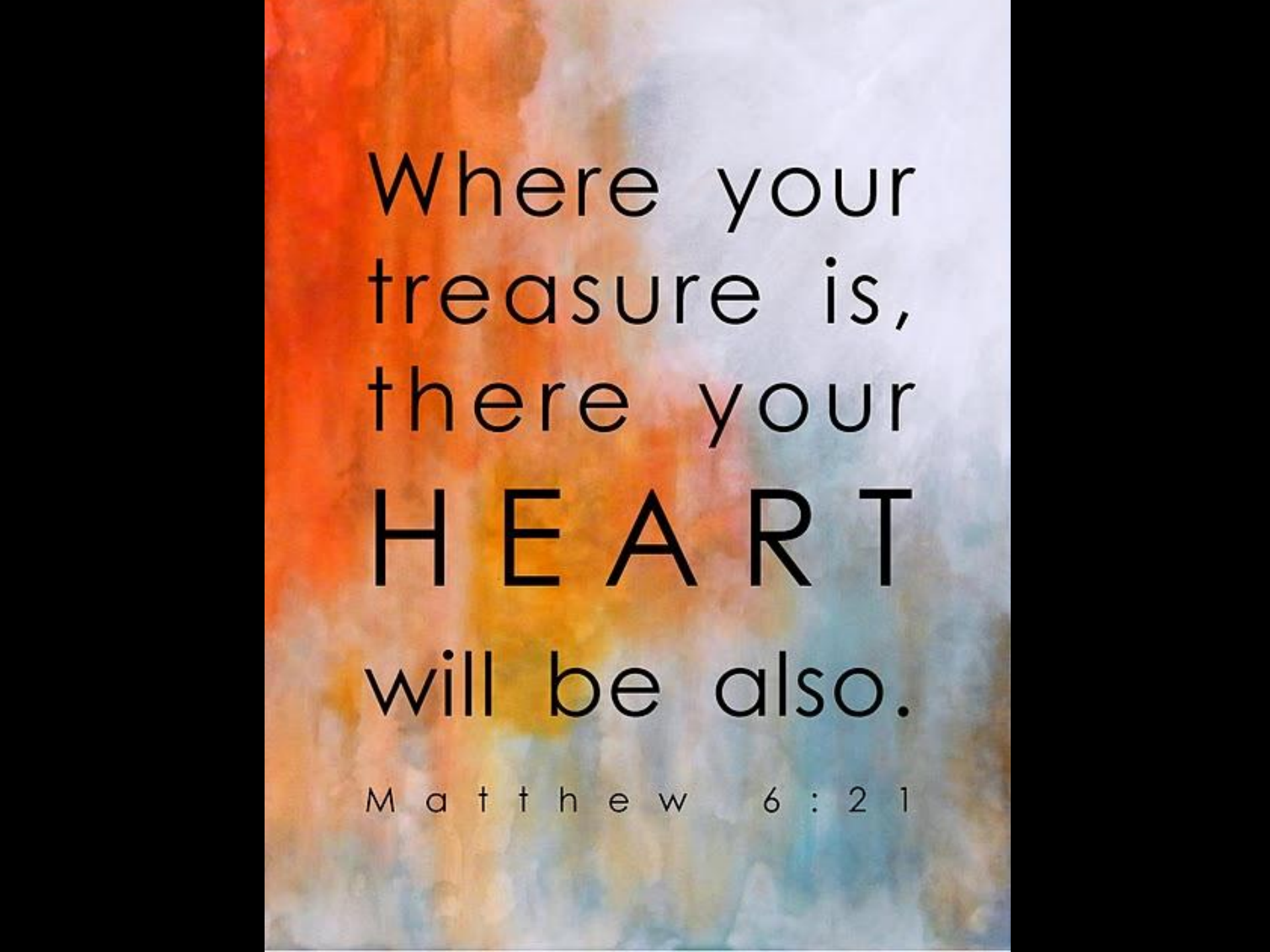


**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”**

Ephesians 1:3 (KJV)

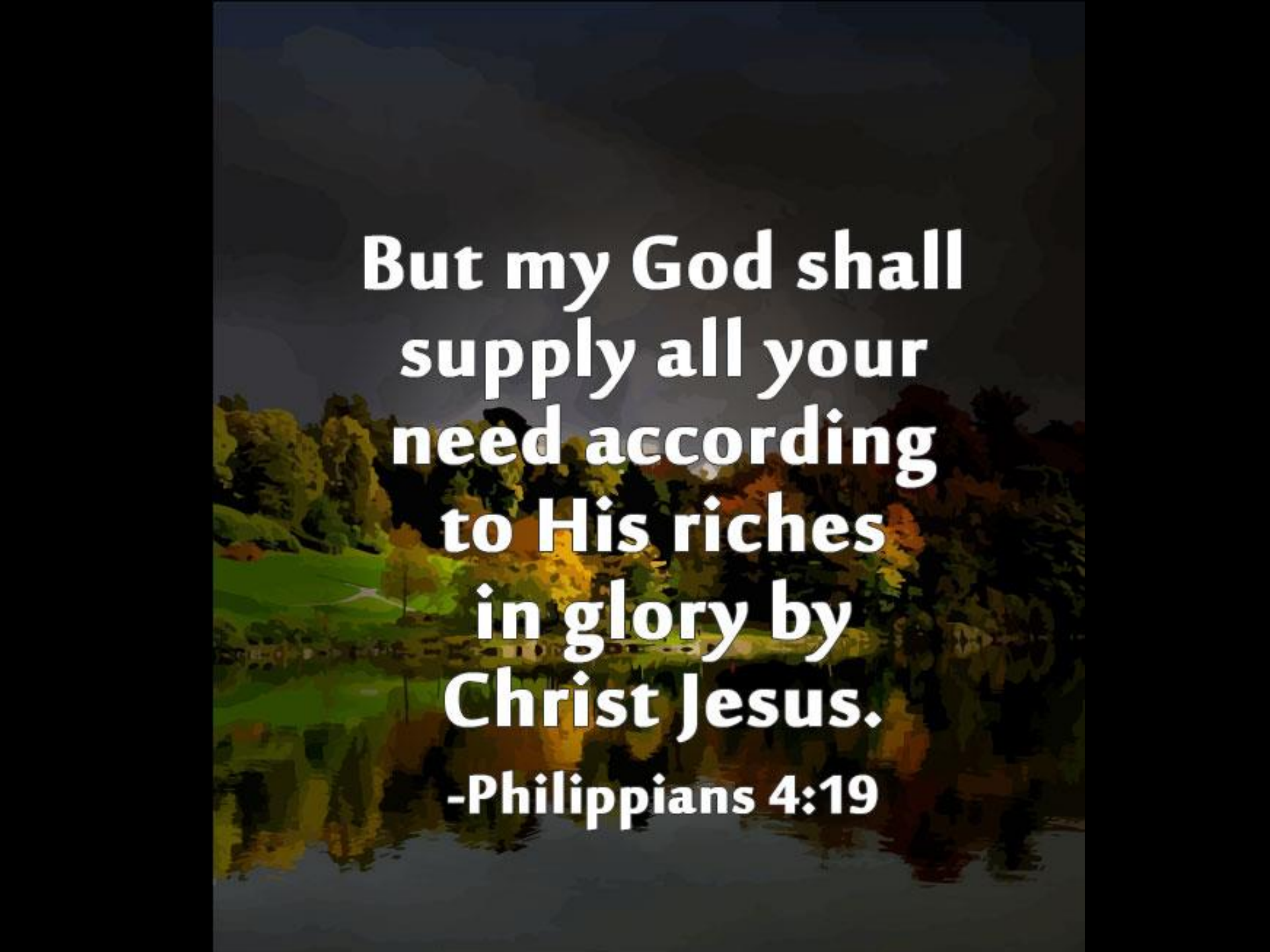


"What's this we hear about your  
laying up treasures in heaven?"



Where your  
treasure is,  
there your  
**HEART**  
will be also.

M a t t h e w 6 : 2 1



**But my God shall  
supply all your  
need according  
to His riches  
in glory by  
Christ Jesus.**

**-Philippians 4:19**



## 2. The seed is different.

- Abraham's physical seed refers to Israel (*Rom. 9:7*)
- Abraham's spiritual seed refers to the church (*Gal.*)
- *Rom. 4:16* "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all."
- *Gal. 3:7-8* "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed."

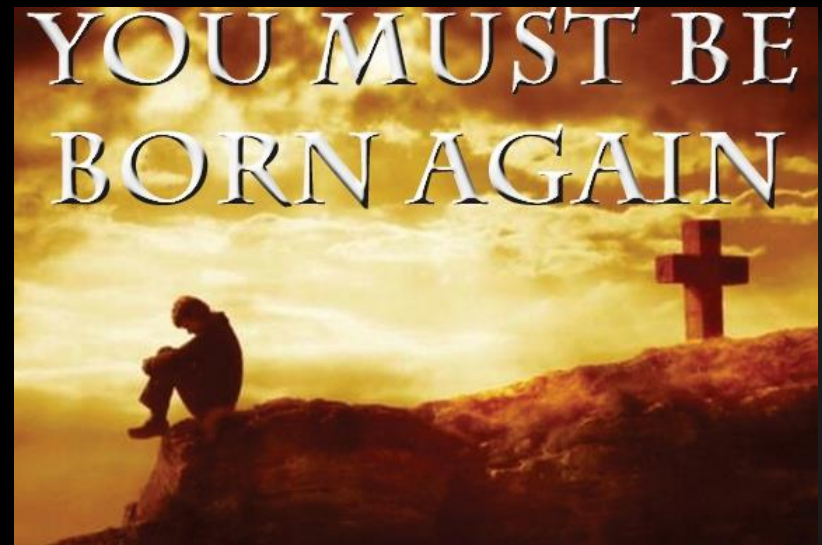


*(Romans 4:1-5)*

*“What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”*

### 3. The births are different.

- Israel celebrated its birthday (*Shavuot*) at the base of Mt. Sinai (*Exod. 19-20*) where they were given the Law and became a nation committed to serving God.
- The Church celebrated its birthday at Pentecost (*Acts 2*)
- Israelites became what they were by physical birth.
- Believers become what they are by spiritual birth.



The author of Hebrews brings out the great contrast between these two.

*(Hebrews 12:18-24)*

*“For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:*







*But ye are come unto mount Sion,  
and unto the city of the living God,  
the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an*



*Jesus the mediator of the new  
covenant, and to the blood of  
sprinkling, that speaketh better  
things than that of Abel.”*



*Daniel B. Holman*



## 4. The nationality is different.

- Israel belonged to this earth and this world.
- The church is composed of all nations and has no citizenship down here, but its members are strangers and pilgrims - (*1 Pet. 2:11*)
- *Phil. 3:20 "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."*
- *Luke 10:20 "...rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."*



## 5. The relationship with the Father is different.

- God is never presented as the Father of individual Israelites in the Old Testament.
- God is presented as the Father of all New Testament believers - (*Rom. 8:15; 1 John 3:1*)





## 6. The relationship with the Son is different.

- Israel is pictured as an unfaithful wife (*Isa. 54:1-17; Jer. 3:1, 14, 20; Ezek. 16:1-59; Hosea 2:1-23*)
- The Church is pictured as a chaste virgin bride yet to be married in heaven (*II Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7-9*)



- Christ was a stumbling stone to Israel (*1 Cor. 1:23; 1 Pet. 2:8*)
- Christ is the Foundation and Chief Cornerstone of the Church (*Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-5*)

*John 1:11 "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."*

The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation,  
By water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride,  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.



- Christ is Israel's Messiah and King (*John 1:49*)
- Christ is the Church's Savior, Bridegroom, and Head (*Eph. 5:23*)





## 7. The relationship with the Holy Spirit is different.

- The Holy Spirit rarely came upon individual Old Testament Israelites – (*Psalm 51:11*)
- The Holy Spirit actually lives inside each New Testament believer - (*1 Cor. 6:19*)





## 8. The temple is different.

- Israel *had* a Temple - (*Exod. 25:8*)
- The church *is* a temple - (*Eph. 2:21*)



These contrasts should make it clear that the church is not Israel.

# The Church is not the Kingdom

- The Church is being built at this present time -  
(*Eph. 4:12*)
- The Kingdom will be set up at a future time -  
(*Acts 15:16; Rev. 11:15*)



Luke 17:21 “Neither shall they say,  
Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold,  
the kingdom of God is within you.”



Matt. 5:20 “For I say unto you, That except  
your righteousness shall exceed the  
righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye  
shall in no case enter into the kingdom of  
heaven.”



Luke 11:2 “And he said unto them,  
When ye pray, say, Our Father which art  
in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy  
kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in  
heaven, so in earth.”





The Church is not a building structure composed of wood, bricks, nails, and mortar.

*“If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.”*

*(1 Peter 2:3-6)*

**One Heavenly Church:**

**The Body of Christ**



**many local churches**



**Jerusalem**



**Antioch**



**Corinth**



**Ephesus**



**Thessalonica**



**Philippi**

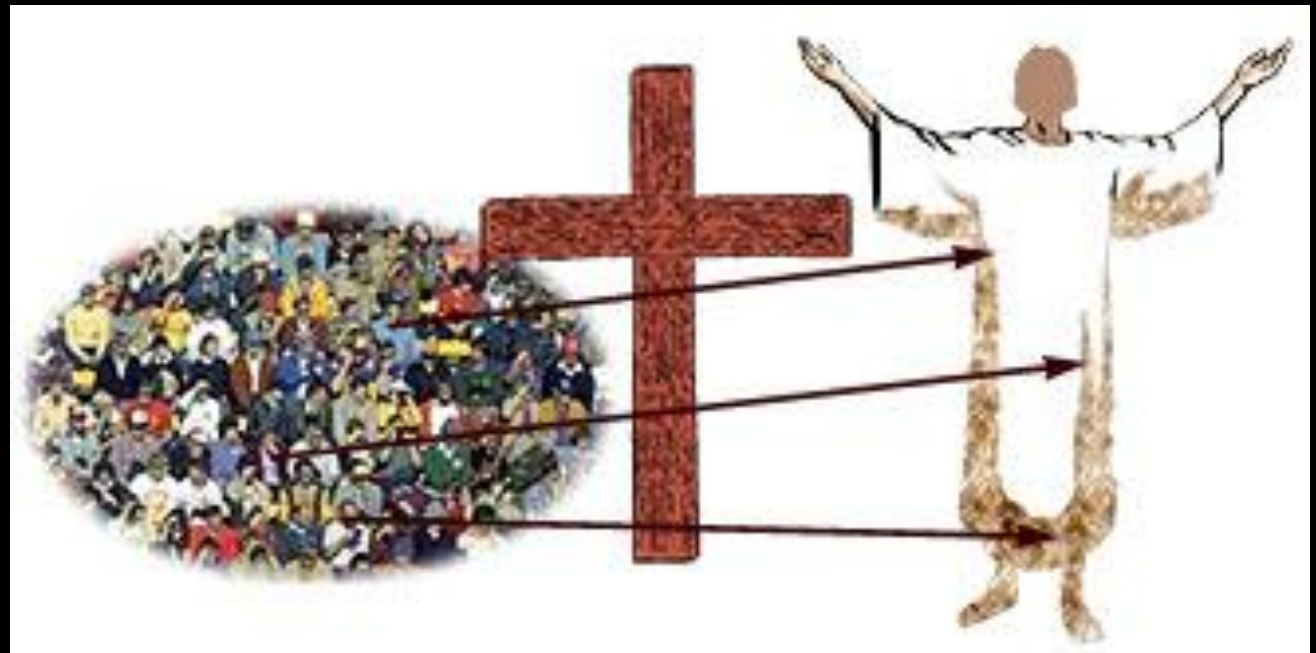
# ***The Importance of the Local Church***

- The word “***Church***” appears 114 times in the New Testament
- Greek (*ekklesia*) = “An assembly of people called out”
- 99 times the word “***Church***” is used in reference to particular local churches
- 7 times in reference to the “***Universal Church***”
- 8 times in reference to the “***Local Church***” in general not a particular church
- 108 Local / 7 Universal

**The Church considered from a  
positive viewpoint.  
*(What the Church is)***

# The Church is the Body of Christ

- *1 Cor. 12:27 "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."*
- *Eph. 4:12 "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."*





# Christ is the head of the Church

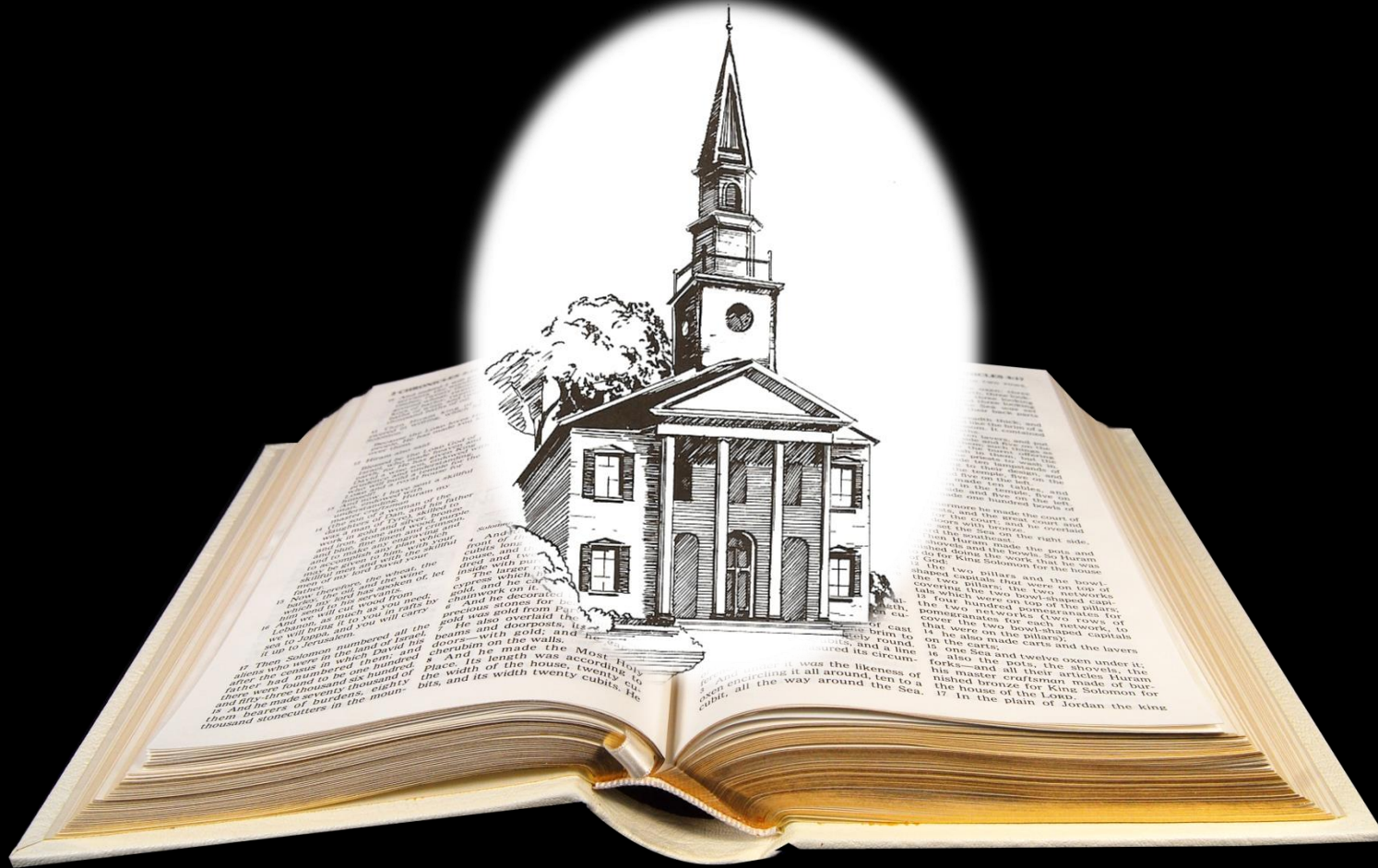
*Eph. 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."*



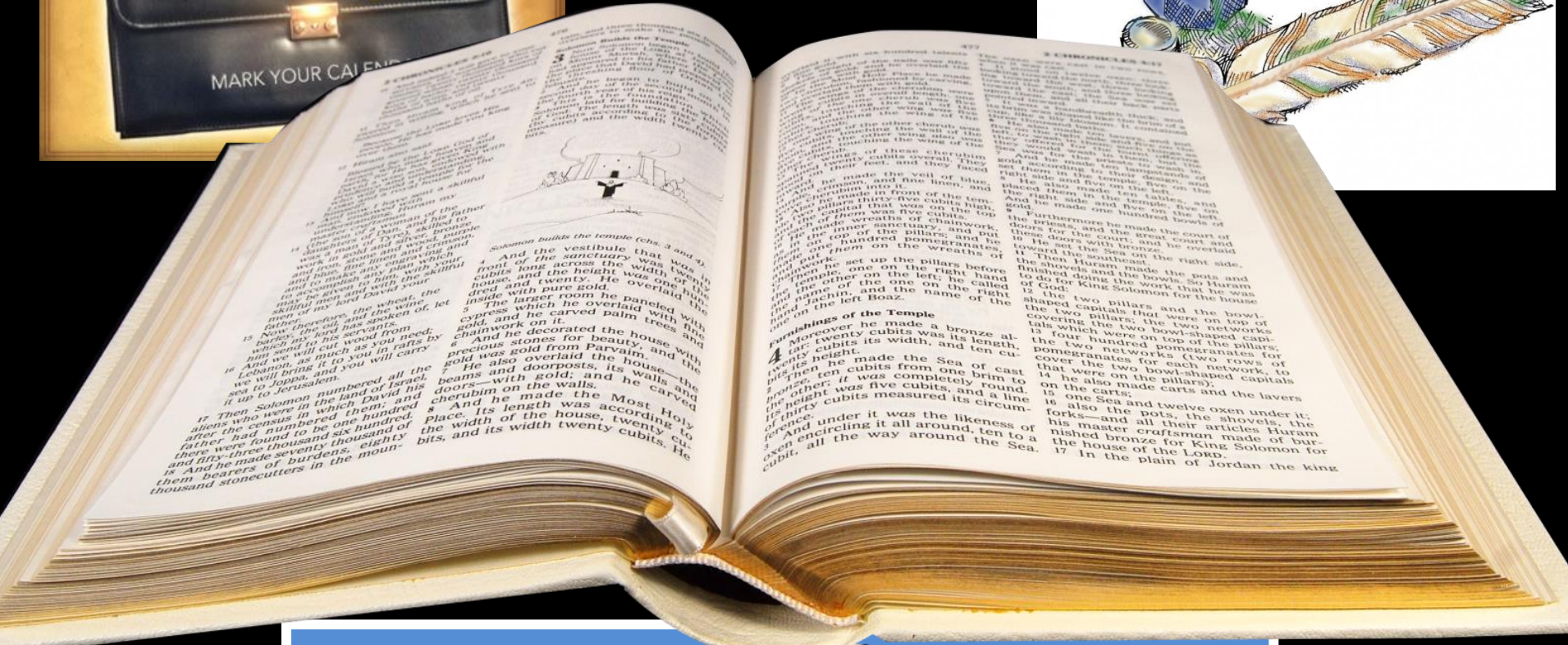
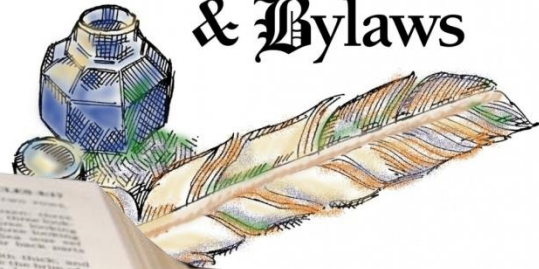
*Preach  
The  
Word*

2 Timothy 4:1-5

# The Word of God is to be the Churches only rule of faith and practice!



# Church Constitution & Bylaws



**Conventions-Fellowships  
Associations-Denominations**

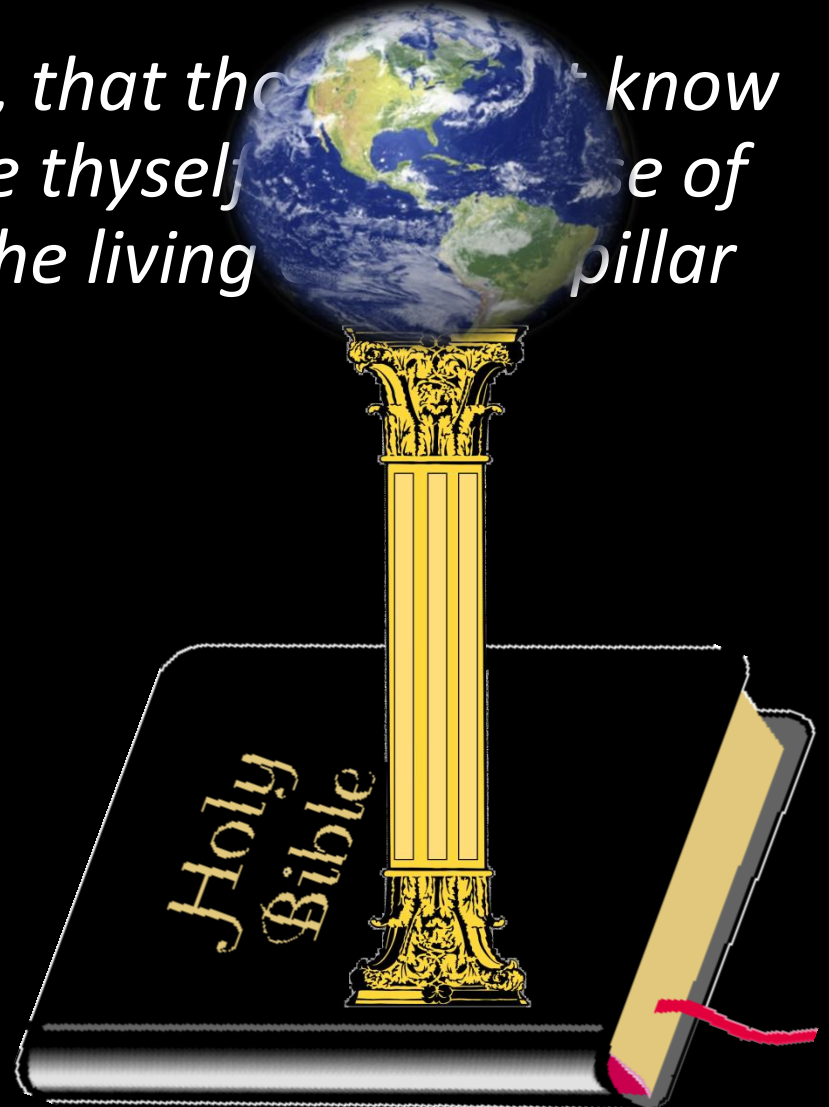


# The Church is the Pillar and Ground of the Truth

*1 Tim. 3:15 "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*

➤ *Pillar = base; post; support*

➤ *Ground = support; basis*





# Jesus Christ alone is to have the Preeminence in His Church

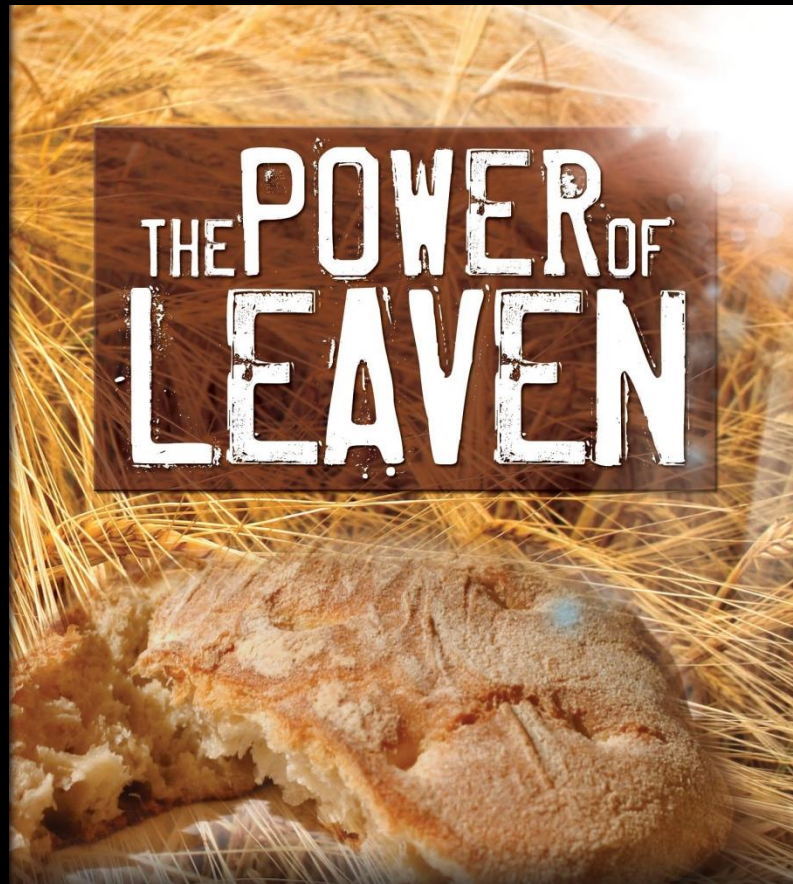
*Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”*

- Preeminence = surpassing all others in superiority, supremacy, greatness, excellence, distinction, prominence.
- *Eph. 3:21 “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”*

# Does Christ have the Preeminence in your life?



*“Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?” 1 Cor. 5:6*





- *Rom. 12:5* “...every one members one of another.”
- *Eph. 4:25* “...for we are members one of another.”
- *I Cor. 12:13-31*



# Church Membership



Next week

