
Appendix 3

The Words “Church” And “Churches” In the New Testament

For a better understanding of the nature of the New Testament church, study carefully the different contexts in which the words “church” and “churches” are used. First, the word “church” is used to mean a secular assembly called together for a special purpose or one which just occurs. (See Acts 19:32, 39, 41.) Second, it is used in a universal sense in reference to all of God’s people. (See Matthew 16:18.) Third, it is used in reference to the saved of a specific racial background. (See Romans 16:4.) Fourth, it is used in reference to the churches of a given general area. (See Galatians 1:2 and Acts 9:31.) Fifth, the word is used as a reference to a specific group of Christians worshiping together. (See 1 Corinthians 1:2 and Colossians 4:16.) Sixth, it is used in reference to the assembly of Christians for worship and study. (See 1 Corinthians 11:18.)

Study carefully the use the Holy Spirit made of the words “church” and “churches” in the New Testament. The numbers in parentheses indicate *the*

number of times the word or expression appears.

“Church” (79)

Matthew (3)—16:18; 18:17 (twice).

Acts (21)—2:47 (the KJV has “church,” but manuscript evidence is poor for its appearance in Acts 2:47); 5:11; 7:38 (the word “congregation” is from *ekklesia* [“church”]); 8:1; 8:3; 9:31; 11:22; 11:26; 12:1; 12:5; 13:1; 14:23; 14:27; 15:3; 15:4; 15:22; 18:22; 19:32 (the word “assembly” is from *ekklesia* [“church”]); 19:39 (the word “assembly” is from *ekklesia* [“church”]); 19:40, 41 (the word “assembly” is from *ekklesia* [“church”]); 20:17; 20:28.

Romans (3)—16:1; 16:5; 16:23.

1 Corinthians (16)—1:2; 4:17; 6:4; 10:32; 11:18; 11:22; 12:28; 14:4; 14:5; 14:12; 14:19; 14:23; 14:28; 14:35; 15:9; 16:19.

2 Corinthians (1)—1:1.

Galatians (1)—1:13.

Ephesians (9)—1:22; 3:10; 3:21; 5:23; 5:24; 5:25; 5:27; 5:29; 5:32.

Philippians (2)—3:6; 4:15.

Colossians (4)—1:18; 1:24; 4:15; 4:16.

1 Thessalonians (1)—1:1.

2 Thessalonians (1)—1:1.

1 Timothy (3)—3:5; 3:15; 5:16.

Philemon (1)—2.

Hebrews (2)—2:12; 12:23.

James (1)—5:14.

3 John (3)—6; 9; 10.

Revelation (7)—2:1; 2:8; 2:12; 2:18; 3:1; 3:7; 3:14.

“Churches” (35)

Acts (2)—15:41; 16:5.

Romans (2)—16:4; 16:16.

1 Corinthians (6)—7:17; 11:16; 14:33; 14:34; 16:1; 16:19.

2 Corinthians (8)—8:1; 8:18; 8:19; 8:23; 8:24; 11:8; 11:28; 12:13.

Galatians (2)—1:2; 1:22.

1 Thessalonians (1)—2:14.

2 Thessalonians (1)—1:4.

Revelation (13)—1:4; 1:11; 1:20 (twice); 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 2:23; 22:16.