

THE CHURCH OF THE THESSALONIANS
II THESS. 1:1-2

Introduction:

- A. The second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.
 - 1. It was much of eschatology.
 - 2. More than any other letter of Paul's.

- B. All writing must be interpreted in its context.
 - 1. Especially the Bible.

- C. There is a context of subject.
 - 1. The New Testament must be interpreted in the light of the church.
 - 2. What will the church be at the second coming?
 - a. There will be few true ones.

I. LISTEN, MOST IMPORTANT SERMON YOU EVER HEARD SINCE
YOU WERE SAVED!

- A. The Word Church.
 - 1. Middle English word "chirche," from Old English "cirice," both from a West Germanic word derived from a Late Greek word, "Kyriakon," from Greek neuter of, "Kyriakos," which means, "Lord, master, from "Kyros," or "Power."
 - 2. It is a KJV translation of "ecclesia."
 - a. Among the Greeks it was non-religious.
 - b. It is composed of "ek" a preposition and the verb, "kaleo." It literally means, "a called out body." It was a political term denoting the town assembly. The citizens called out from their homes to assemble and transact public business.

- B. To the Jews it was also a religious word. The Jews of the dispersion spoke Greek and they used the Septuagint, the Old Testament translated into Greek by 70 translators. The word "ecclesia" was used to describe the Israelites in the wilderness. Hence, it was used by them to describe those assembled for religious purposes. It was natural that it came to be the word to describe the Lord's people assembled to worship Him.

- C. There are two things it never means.
 - 1. It never means a building.
 - 2. It never means something universal or invisible.

- D. Its modern usage is to distinguish the many denominations.
 - 1. Lutheran Church. Luther.
 - 2. Episcopal Church. Henry VIII
 - 3. Presbyterian Church. Calvin.
 - 4. Methodist Church. Wesley.

II. PAUL'S USE IN HIS SALUTATION.

- A. "assembly of Thessalonians."

- B. "in God the Father." (theos patros)
 - 1. Not a pagan God, Jupiter or Zeus. Neptune or Poseidon, not the Emperor, but The God!

- C. "Lord Jesus Christ."
 - 1. More than the Jewish concept.

III. A CHURCH IS A PEOPLE OF GOD.

- A. A people called from their homes to assemble and worship God, through His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Saved, Baptized, and Disciples.

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B. It becomes a special habitation of God.

1. Eph. 2:22 "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

IV. WHAT IS THE PROPER WORK OF THE CHURCH?

A. Every work of the church is to be a spiritual work.

1. It may not be our understanding of spiritual.

b. There are many endeavors that are noble but they are not "spiritual."

1. Medical - hospitals, etc.
2. Educational - schools.
3. Social == gymnasiums, running tracks.
4. Community service, day-care centers.
 - a. If at all, should be free.

C. Matt. 28:18-20 ; Acts 1:6-11, v8.

D. The church is what you are!

