

## What is the Church?

The church consists of God's people who serve God. These people will be found in every denomination or the universal church everywhere. It is the assembly of believers in Jesus Christ who know and worship God. The physical buildings facilitate the fellowship, worship, and ministry of God's people, but it is not the church. *And let us consider together how we may stir up love and good works, not giving up assembling together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* (HEB10:24-25) Jesus Himself revealed the signs that will alert us to nearness of His return. Here the fellowship with other believers is for everyone's best interest. Christians cannot forsake gathering together. Christ followers should attend every meeting possible to worship their sovereign and enjoy assembly of the saints. We have a personal relationship with God, and we must encounter others so as to share the grace and message bestowed upon us. The church teaches us how to serve, gives us opportunity for fellowship. Unity was a vital part of the early church. *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them"* (MAT18:20)

Many people, including Christians, have concepts about what the church is. But what is the church exactly? Is the church a building Christians go to on Sundays to worship? Is the church an organization of people who believe in Jesus Christ? What is the church according to the Bible? Let's look at the word church in the original language. The Greek word for church is *ekklesia*, referring to a gathering or assembly of called out ones or congregation. So the church, is the assembly of people who have been called out of the world by God. *"To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints.* (1CO1:2) The church isn't a physical building nor organization; it's a group of called out God's people. God has separated us, heavenly blessed, made us holy, unto God when we believed into Him, To the church of God equals to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus. This indicates the church is a composition of the saints and the saints are constituents of the church. Individually, we are the saints; corporately, we are the church.

Who are the called-out ones? The first mention of the word church is in Matthew 16, Jesus brings His disciples outside Jerusalem and asks them who they think He is. Peter responds by declaring, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (MAT 16:15-16) Jesus tells Peter that he received this revelation from God. After such revelation by divine inspiration, Jesus pronounced a blessing upon Peter and He then stated, *"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* (v.18) Jesus reinterprets Peter's declaration: "You are Peter" (petros-small rock), "and on this rock" (petra-large, strong, immovable) "I will build my church" (church belongs to Him), build on this Rock. (MAT7:24-25) that Rock was Christ. (1CO10:4) The church cannot be shaken! because Jesus is building His Church! By contrast, Jesus does not say "upon you, Peter" or upon your successors. In Eph 2:20, *having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,* (REV21:14) Jesus Christ is the cornerstone on which the church is founded by the apostles and prophets. And from Peter built on that foundation of the apostles, prophets. The chief cornerstone of any building was that upon which the building was secured.

In I Peter 2:4–8, the "living stones," are believers who come to Jesus and place their lives upon this foundation, dedicated to serve, that are part of the church. *you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* God is building us into a spiritual house, a dwelling place for Himself. In this temple each of us serve as priests to declare the praises of Him who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of life and glory. As living stones of the church, we have new life in Christ, and we are connected to one another in the body of Christ. As the Master Builder, God places His living stones just where He wants us to be. (1CO12:18)

Speaking of Jesus, Peter proclaimed, *"He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone.* (ACT4:11-12) Scripture describes Jesus as the Chief Cornerstone of our faith. "Therefore this says the Lord God: *'Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.* (ISA28:16) *And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.* But some men reject the cornerstone in order to build their lives their own way, not God's way. (LUK6:46–49) Unbelievers cast this living Stone aside, not caring that Jesus is the only true foundation upon which they can build securely. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1COR3:11) God has called out His people from both Gentiles and Jews to faith in Christ, stumbling stone.

Peter's life was built on the Rock of Salvation; the Rock of Deliverance; the Chief Cornerstone; and the Rock of Ages. It was Peter who first proclaimed Gospel on the day of Pentecost. From this day the Lord began to establish His church, after the death, resurrection, ascended into heaven of Jesus and in conjunction with the descent of the Holy Spirit. Those who repent, believe as Peter has made and were baptized, God add to their number day by day those who are being saved into the church. (ACT2:14-47) The identity of the Messiah, God the Son, and through the Holy Spirit, confess "Jesus is Lord" is the gospel message (1CO12:3) And this building mission uses the keys of the kingdom of heaven as gospel is announced throughout the world. In addition, Christ is both the foundation and the head of the church. (EPH5:23) He is the head, Jesus is Savior in our relationship. (COL1:17) The Church is "the called-out ones" who have been spiritually and savingly united with the living God. Gospel called us unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. That is the power that keeps the gates of hell from overcoming those who are in Christ, His people, the Church. Peter references Jesus as the cornerstone, stating *salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching [doctrine] and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*(ACT2:42) According to this verse, the purposes and function of the church should be 1) teaching biblical doctrine, 2) providing a place of fellowship for believers, 3) observing the Lord's supper, and 4) praying. The church is to teach biblical doctrine so we can be grounded in our faith. The church is to be a place of fellowship, where Christians can be devoted to one another and honor one another, instruct one another, be kind and compassionate to one another, encourage one another, and most importantly, love one another.(1JO3:11) Eph 4:11–16, discusses both the gift of spiritual leaders and the importance of mature, loving, unified Christianity. *that is, to build up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God—a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature.*

The word doctrine means “teaching,” or “instruction.” A doctrine can only be considered biblical when it is explicitly taught in the Bible. No man shall add to or take away or changed, to the Bible. Doctrine refers to the specific teachings of the Bible on various subjects. *The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.*(MAR1:22) Making disciples mean to teach new believers in Jesus to observe everything He has commanded them to do. Obedience to all of Jesus' teaching is to become the standard practice, and present everyone perfect in Christ for growth in life unto maturity. Doctrine is teaching of our heavenly Father, revealed in Jesus Christ, transmitted to us by the Holy Spirit in Scripture, and it is to be received, confessed, followed in the church.

The church promoting fellowship: worship of God and edification of the church. The worship of God is the highest calling of man. God created us for this purpose and failure to do so will leave a God shaped pit in our lives. Christians worship God to thank him for his love, ask for forgiveness for their sins and try to understand his will for them.(JOH4: 24) Edification is spiritual, moral, intellectual improvement. As Christians we are expected to grow spiritually. Our knowledge of God should be ever-increasing, obedience to Him should be continually perfected. We should seek God and submit to His work in us. The spiritual gifts that promote inner growth of the church (apostleship, prophecy, discernment, teaching, word of wisdom /knowledge, helps and administration) and outer development (faith, miracles, healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues)

The church is to be a place where believers can observe the Lord's Supper, remembering Christ's death and shed blood on our behalf.(1CO11:23-26) The concept of “breaking bread” refer to holy communion in partaking of the Lord's Supper Jesus told us, *“Do this is remembrance of me.”* That we would look backward to the finished work of the cross, inward to the centering of our lives of Christ, Jesus says, *“Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.”* forward to what the kingdom will be, Jesus said he would not drink of the fruit of the vine until he drank it anew in the kingdom and outward as we live out forgiveness toward our brothers/sisters. Examine ourself before of partaking Lord's Supper. The Lord's supper is a feast of reconciliation, not just of us with God, but for us to one another with peace.

Prayer is essential to the process of determining and fulfilling God's purposes for the Church. God becomes our refuge as we pour our hearts out to Him.(PSA 62:8) Through prayer we demonstrate trust in a God who "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.” *First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of all people.*(1TI 2:1) “Prayer is the great work!” For this reason, prayer must be our priority. It is the way that God has chosen to build his kingdom There is a tremendous power in corporate prayer; God meets with us in a special way when we participate in it. The church is to be a place that promotes prayer, teaches prayer, and practices prayer.(PHI4:6-7)

The church is to evangelize the world. The Church has a divine mission evangelizing the world for Christ. Jesus came to a lost world to live a life that would set the perfect example for all people of all time.(1PE2:21-23) Having lived that life, set that example and given his life, he came back from the dead. A few days after his resurrection he went back to heaven to take his position at the right hand of God and become only one mediator between mankind and God.(1TI2:5) It was at this time when the purpose of his life (i.e., to seek and save the lost), command to his disciples. Great commission given to the church is proclaiming the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ.(ACT1:8) The church is called to be faithful in sharing the gospel through word and deed. The church is to be a “lighthouse” in the community, pointing people toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church is to both promote the gospel and prepare its members to proclaim the gospel.

Some final purposes of the church are given in James 1:27: *“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”* The church is to be about ministering to those in need. This includes not only sharing the gospel, but also providing for physical needs (food, clothing, shelter) as necessary and appropriate. Christ looked at the needs of the people, provided it, and then begun to preach out the good deeds. The church is God's hands, mouth, and feet in this world—the body of Christ. Christ needs the church as a Body to express Himself to do His will, to accomplish His eternal purpose. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.(1CO12:12-27). We are to be doing the things that Jesus Christ would do if He were here physically on the earth. The church is to be “Christ-like,” and Christ-following. The church is to equip believers in Christ with the tools they need to overcome sin and remain free from the pollution of the world. This is done by biblical teaching and Christian fellowship. Whether worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry or mission, the main purpose of all that the church does is to glorify God. *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*(1CO10:31)

*“Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers.”*(MAT21:12-13) These merchandisers, religious leaders and the priests who allowed their presence cared nothing for worship as long as they could make money and keep up the rituals. Our Savior hated this profanity, which kept the God’s people from learning about the living God. It showed Jesus as having divine authority to purify and take charge of the temple, a messianic task.(EZE43:1-12) Lord’s purpose in this cleansing is about Himself, the temple and Jewish religious system. The religious leaders of His time consider the doctrines and traditions of men.(MAT12:1-8) their worship and service is vain (MAR7:7) *And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?*(MAT15:1-3) Jesus calling them—blind leaders of the blind, and even proclaiming—woes on them for their stubborn false teaching. And He said to them, *“It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, ”but you have made it a den of thieves.* He is claiming to have the authority to correct evils performed in the temple. In fact, He is God tabernacling among men, *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,*(JOH1:14). Later, He speaks of Himself as the temple, and so He is.(REV21:22)

The church is now the temple where God dwells. *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*(1CO3:16-17) The church is growing into a holy temple in the Lord and every believer individually is a temple of the Lord.(1CO6:19-20) Jesus has authority over this church and over every individual in it. He is the rightful Lord of the church. He owns because He purchased each one with His blood. Thus, He has the right to cleanse the church and to cleanse every person in it. As the Lord of the temple, Jesus knew that the temple was not to be a place for business. It was a place for worship, for prayer, for offering sacrifices. It was the place to meet with God and seek His face for help.

The Passover feast which Jesus here went up to celebrate, but it had degenerated into a business opportunity for money changers. God’s purpose for His church is that we would glorify Him by growing in love for Him and for one another (commandments) and by proclaiming the gospel to the lost (Commission). We need to keep on task by evaluating all that we do in light of these purposes. If we live for anything else, the Lord will examine us and purge out that which has diverted us from His purpose for us. As the Lord of the temple, Jesus is zealous for God’s house. He calls the temple “His Father’s house”, doing—His Father’s business. Jesus acts out of zeal for His Father’s house, laying claim to the temple and cleansing it. Jesus, in righteous anger, rebuked the moneychangers, merchants, religious leaders. He made a whip, drove them out with force. At the cleansing of the temple, our Lord symbolically comes to possess what, as God, is His. Declaring the truth that the Temple courts were to be a place for the nations to come to God and worship. So glorify God!

And what mutual agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God.(2CO6:16-20) how there can be fellowship between light and darkness. Guard yourselves from idols.(1JO5:21) God rejects worship given to him through images and statues. God is a jealous God. When some Israelites tried to worship him using a statue of a calf, they had committed—a terrible sin.(EXO32:7-9;20:3-5) Idolatry is the sin of substitution in which we devote ourselves to worship something or someone in the place of Almighty God. Idols are the work of men’s hands. Christians should be—walking by faith, not by sight. Also, an idol is any person, object or activity you give a higher priority in your life than a relationship with God. *Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols.* (ISA15:23) Covetousness is idolatry-worship of strange gods. A devotion to Mary is a form of idol worship. Idols are an abomination to the Lord. Lord Jesus is merciful and gracious to those who trust and obey and the One who will judge those who resist and reject Him. *If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy,*

In a spiritual environment that’s extremely sensitive and wary of legalism, any authoritative action taken by the church can be highly explosive—often interpreted as aggressive, controversial, hurtful. When your church becomes a mouthpiece for a political party, you cease to be the church. The racial, social, gender differences that divide should not happen within church. The church should be best in the world at handling conflict, do your best to help reconcile your brothers and sisters. Biblical dress code reference concerns modesty is about holiness and how we express outwardly by what we choose to wear.(JAM2:1-4) Christians have become fairly good at focusing on the moral failings of others while ignoring their own. Instead of pretending someone else’s sin is worse than your sin, judge yourself, confess your sin, and forsake your sin. If you’ve already sinned in word or deed, turn from it, ask God to forgive you, ask forgiveness of those you’ve sinned against you. Also, in humility, go to your brother and seek to restore him to the Lord. Respect God’s house, the Church and those who come to give Him honor. *Therefore, consider the kindness and harshness of God: harshness toward those who have fallen, but God’s kindness toward you. provided you continue in his kindness; Otherwise you also will be cut off.*(ROM11:22)

By His cleansing the temple we learn how the house of God should be respected and not defiled thru tradition, deceptive philosophy of men(plain nonsense)(COL2:8) A sober question to ask is, what would Jesus do if He visited your church today? Would He be pleased with our songs and worship? Would He happy as He looked at our relationships as Bride? Would He approve of our heart for the lost? Would He extol our giving and the way that we use church’s funds? Would He say that our prayer life reflects our total trust on Him? Ask same question on an individual level: Lord, is my life pleasing to You? Is my love for You genuine? Is my thought life pure? Be humble, purify our hearts. As the Lord’s temple, we must submit to His cleansing and sanctification. *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*(REV3:19)

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation"(2CO5:18) God gave church the mission of carrying gospel, message of this reconciliation with God, to as many people as possible. Bible says that Christ reconciled us to God. We needed reconciliation means our relationship with God was broken. Our sin separates us from Him. In Christ, God is reconciling people to Himself, not counting their sin against them.(ROM5:10)

Is Christ Lord over your church? The churches that were healthy, growing spiritually and socially active have significant aspects that set them apart from the failing churches. The factors are displayed in order to creates a harmony, satisfaction, and atmosphere for a churchgoer to come to church services and fellowship, and then to invite others. When they feel this church is "home," they will learn and grow, then desire to become a member, become active, inspire, experience and give love and Fruit, and be able to serve Lord Jesus Christ. They become a channel for the work of the Gospel, moving of the Spirit, and the glorification of our Lord. These churches are places to know Christ, to be effective, and to grow spiritually.

The main factor over all else of why churches succeed is this one point: they were centered upon Christ as Lord! They were hold spiritual preservation to Christ as central and sovereign. Each of these points relate to the Lordship of Christ. Draw us back to Jesus and enable us to hold fast to the Head, which is Christ. *from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.*(COL2:19) First reason people come and bring other people to a church is the love and Fruit that is real, felt, displayed. People are motivated when there is real hospitality and warmth in the Church-where they feel welcomed and a part of, connected, safe, content, as well as stimulated to learn and grow. These are motivated by Christ and thus are learning and growing in Him, demonstrating they care for Him.

People stay a part of a church is teaching gift of the pastor to stimulate spiritual knowledge and growth. The growing churches have solid, biblical preaching at their core. These churches preach the holiness of God, the blood of Jesus, how to worship, how to deal with sin, how to relate to one another, how to love one another, and biblical precepts for knowledge and living, which the leaders are modeling! All of the preaching is done by and through the Word with power, conviction, passion, simplicity (taught in a way people understood), and in God's truth. These churches lift up the cross! People will stop going to any church is because of conflict and gossip! Healthy churches have a plan to recognize and then resolve conflict and sin. We need to lovingly correct and rebuke our fellow Christians. People who continuing to create factions, disunity, strife are counseled, and if they will not stop, they are removed from fellowship until they repent.

People grow spiritually is by being encouraged to read through the Bible, do devotions, practice the disciplines of the faith as modeled by the leadership. These churches equip and disciple their people, not just in the basics of the faith, but also in how to be Christians in their daily lives and to live their lives to His glory! *Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*(COL1:28) A church is effective in its outreach and missions is because of its real, authentic worship. Worship is seen as a response to God-our gratitude for who He is and what He has done. They see worship as the Bible teaches; God is the addressees and we are performers who praise and glorify Him! Healthy churches that are growing in Christ have prayer as a primary focus. The churches are prayerful in all aspects of church life, ministry. They are reliant upon God's power and authority of His Word.

Healthy churches that are growing in Christ have leaders who focus on Christ and serve Him. Their leadership style is not by will; it is by being a servant. Servant Leadership, servants of their people is modeled and practiced. Churches that are growing in Christ have people that are disciplined, trained, encouraged and growing in Christ. They are charmed by God's presence in their church and life, thus place Christ first, acting on His character and call! They care for others and focus on their community and world. Churches that are growing in Christ have a system of pastoral care. They train their staff and leaders to immediately respond when they hear of a church member in need. Churches that are growing in Christ have effective evangelism, stewardship, and discipleship. Everything we do in ministry should flow from toward making disciples. Jesus saw everything commanded in Mat.28:18-20—baptizing, going, teaching—as pursuant of primary thing: disciple making for the work of the ministry: Churches that are growing in Christ tend to organize and mobilize their people according to their Spiritual Gifts! People will function in the power of Holy Spirit. People are stimulated to serve is because the Bible is taught in a real, effectual, and applicable way. We are called to reach out and help, care for them.

Churches that are growing in Christ are willing to confront sin, evil, gossip, slander, manipulators, heresy in the church-immediately! The leadership move ahead in purpose, and unity. Leaders must be full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. Elders who lead disciplined lives, willing to go beyond their embrace Christ. They are willing to publicly repent, apologize for past mistakes, make improvements & change. Every church member should take care to submit to the leaders in the church because pastors will be held responsible before the Lord for how they kept watch over the souls in their care.(HEB13:17)

If you have nothing appropriate to offer your people and you are not hospitable to them, you are producing a failing church. The Holy Spirit cannot work effectively when "my" will and desires are running His Church. You must collectively kneel to your knees, repent, then pray for revival. That will work! Church was bought by His blood, He is the Head of the church, we need to be concerned above all with His standards of success when we measure success of a church. Remember: real church growth is in spiritual maturity, not just numerical! *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, be reconciled to God.*

To many people believe, the church will endure until the coming of the Lord. But we are reminded all the time of the rise of evil and its power in our day. When we look at the lives of those around us and how the devil has inflicted pain and misery. We are reminded of the world getting worse but where are the messages that speaks of a church that is getting ready for His coming. The Bible gives us signs to look for in the church just prior to the coming of the Lord. For while this world will be dying spiritually, the church will be becoming more spiritually alive in Him. Ephesians 5:26-27, speaks of the church coming to that place of holiness. *“that He might sanctify and cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, but that she should be holy and blameless.”* Let us praise and sing about victory in Jesus. He builds His church for it to be triumphed. It will accomplish what it was designed to do. He will be returning for a victorious church without spot or wrinkle, who will be wearing a robe of righteousness. He will be returning for a church that resembles the one who is coming back after her, that is she is in unity, beauty and mature. He is zealous for His Bride. His desires will be fulfilled.

When the Church of God arises with her garments bright and fair, she ascends to meet the Bridegroom in the air. Will you be among the Bride? Glorious Church of Christ! *“Christ...loved the church, and gave himself for it...That he might present it to himself a glorious church. This is a description of the Lord’s glorious church because He is its Divine designer and great architect. It is ruled by the glorified Christ who is with God in Heaven. In the glorious church of our Lord, people from every nation, tribe, language and anywhere on earth, have heard of the accounts of the cross. They have fallen in love with the One who hung on it, believed His great victory over the grave, and rejoiced in His exaltation to the right hand of His Father in Heaven. And to be the head over all things to the church, gracious, merciful and faithful High Priest. In loving obedience, they have changed their lives to be reconciled through the cross to God in the one body, the church.*

Let us now look at some aspects of this glorious church. The beginning of the Glorious Church of Christ— Acts 2. It began on the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after our Lord was crucified. We thank God every day for the forgiveness we receive thru the shed blood of Christ as we grow spiritually. *“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”*(2CO11:21) the Bride of Christ is to be a chaste virgin. What is Christ's purpose in His cleansing and sanctifying work? The church is brought into glory. the church will be clothed with glory to be presented to Christ. One day the church will arrive at the oneness of the faith; she will arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; she will be clothed with glory and presented to Christ. The Lord will cleanse to such a degree that it will seem as if the church has never had any defilement, the church is to bring on holiness. When the church stands before the Lord, she will be without spot or wrinkle. When God's work upon the church will be brought to such a stage that she will be glorious. God will bring the church to the place where nothing can be said against her, she will be holy and blameless. In that day, when the church is so glorious, she will become the Bride of Christ.

The end of all things is near. First priority should be seeking His Kingdom and righteousness and willing to give up everything, forsake all that we can have true riches that the Lord offers.(HEB12:28) When we are born again by faith in Jesus Christ.(JOH3:3) we are born into the Kingdom of Heaven.(MAT3:2; 7:21;ROM14:17). Speaking of those who have had that spiritual rebirth, Philippians 3:20 says, *“Our citizenship is in heaven”* When God grants us citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven, we become “new creatures”(2CO5:17) He sends His Holy Spirit to indwell our spirits, and our bodies become His temple. The Holy Spirit begins to transform our sinful, worldly desires into those that glorify God. His goal is to make us as much like Jesus in this life.(ROM8:29) We are given the power and privilege of separated from the world’s standard and living for eternity.(1JO2:15–17) When you take up residency in the Kingdom of God you must learn the patterns and principles of Kingdom living. For example, the life of Jesus is given as a pattern or model which believers are to follow. To be adopted into the family of God means that we become citizens of an eternal kingdom where our Lord is the King. To achieve perfection, we must embrace principles of God's Kingdom. *But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.*(HEB12:22) Our focus turns toward eternal things and storing up treasure in heaven. (MAT6:19) Consequently, we grow up adopting the Kingdom law, culture, practices, values by God’s grace, glory, strength.

We sojourn on earth. We are pilgrims passing through a foreign country, looking forward to the city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come the Holy city called New Jerusalem, is the eternal habitation of the Bride.(HEB13:14;11:9–10) Do you love and long for the appearing of Christ? Is there an eagerness to see him? Do you pray for His coming? Come, Lord Jesus! We should eagerly await the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ because this is a blessed hope.(PHI3:20) It is good that we eagerly await the Lord’s return. But we must be sure we are ready for it so that we may “be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless”(2PE3:14) The Bridegroom is Jesus, returning for His Bride, who transformed into His likeness and image from glory to glory. Bride of Christ adorned herself with the incorruptible beauty of a meek and quiet spirit, ready for her marriage with the Lamb. *“Let us be glad and shout with joy; and let us give glory to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife (the bride) has made herself ready”*(REV19:7) What a wonderful blessing and privilege it is to belong to the Glorious Church of Christ! Our Bridegroom is coming soon! We are exhorted to be ready at all times in blessed hope, Hallelu-Yah!