

## INTRODUCTION

Our Lord has provided us this letter, as part of the whole Bible, so that we can know how we ought to conduct ourselves or behave ourselves, how we ought to act, how we ought to live, in the church. To press this to our consciences, to make these instructions powerful and memorable to us, the Holy Spirit caused what we call “the church” to be described in three ways. Last week, we considered the church as the house of God. In the Old Testament days, a physical structure was the house of God: the tabernacle or the temple. In these New Testament days, the disciples of Jesus Christ together are God’s house, God’s building. Today we take up the next phrase, and see that what we call ‘the church’ is the assembly or congregation of the living God.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 3:14-15

## BODY

What we call “the church” is the assembly or congregation of the living God.

- I. What We Call “The Church” Is, in the Original Greek, the *Ekklesia*
  - A. Greek *ekklesia*
  - B. That is the Greek word in this place, and in many other places in the New Testament
    1. examples
    2. wherever in the Bible you are used to reading or hearing the English word “church,” the original Greek word is *ekklesia*
  - C. The etymology of that word gives us some understanding what it means here
    1. *ek* = out
    2. *kaleo* = to call
    3. so, the concept of people who were called out of their normal place or activity
  - D. History tells us that in the Greek culture the *ekklesia* was a meeting or assembly of the citizens, usually to debate or decide political questions
  - E. So, the Greek word *ekklesia* gives us a two-part idea:
    1. people are called out
    2. to come to a meeting; to come to an assembly; to form a congregation

What we call “the church” is, in the original Greek, the *ekklesia*

- II. In the Old Testament Scriptures, *Ekklesia* Referred to Israel, as Called By God to Assemble Before Him As a Congregation
- A. The scriptures record that, in the days of OT Israel, God would have one of His servants call Israel to gather before Him; this included two aspects
    1. the people were called
    2. the people met together; they assembled; they congregated
  - B. When the Old Testament was translated into Greek, before the time Jesus came, this was translated by the Greek word *ekklesia*.
    1. *Ekklesia* means literally “called out.”
    2. But it was used to mean gathering or assembly or congregation that formed when men were called out to assemble.
    3. Therefore, it made a good word for this Old Testament phenomenon of God calling Israel to assemble before Him
  - C. Here are some examples of when Israel was gathered before the Lord, and that congregation or assembly was called the *ekklesia*
    1. Deu 4:9-10 God said to Moses, at Mt Sinai, “Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children,” then He spoke to them the Ten Commandments; when that was translated into Greek, it was called the *ekklesia*. Deu 9:10 (all versions read “assembly”)
    2. Joshua 8:33-35 Joshua led all Israel in worship, including reading the Bible to them, all Israel, gathered to worship; when that was translated into Greek, it was called the *ekklesia*. (GEN, KJV congregation NKJV, ESV assembly)
    3. 1 Kings 8:1-2, 14 When the temple had been built under King Solomon, the King assembled all the leaders of Israel, and all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the King; when that was translated into Greek, it was called the *ekklesia*. (GEN, KJV congregation NKJV, ESV assembly)
    4. Nehemiah 7:5, 66 Nehemiah gathered those Israelites who had returned from exile in Babylon, back to Jerusalem, so they could be registered by genealogy; that gathering, when that was translated into Greek, was called the *ekklesia*. (GEN, KJV congregation NKJV, ESV assembly)
    5. Joel 2:15-16, 28-32 God, by the prophet Joel, called for the people to be gathered, and told them to pray to the Lord, that He would save them, and prophesied to them about the days when the Holy Spirit would be poured out, and that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; when that was translated into Greek, it was called the *ekklesia*. (all versions read “congregation”)
  - D. So, from the Old Testament, we know that the word *ekklesia* describes this thing:
    1. God, by His human messenger, calls for His people to come to him, gathering to worship Him
    2. in such a gathering, God’s law and His gospel are proclaimed, and the people pray to God, thanking Him, praising Him, confessing their sins, and crying to Him to save them
  - E. So, when the New Testament had not yet been written, this Old Testament thing already was known to God’s people in the Greek language as G1577 the *ekklesia*.
  - F. The Lord Jesus and His disciples then used that word, *ekklesia*, to name the New Covenant gathering or assembly or congregation of the disciples of Jesus Christ.

What we call “the church” is, in the original Greek, the *ekklesia*

In the Old Testament scriptures, *ekklesia* referred to Israel, as called by God to assemble before Him as a congregation

III. The Pagans Where Timothy Lived Also Called Their Assembly the *Ekklesia*

A. Acts 19:23-41 “assembly” in verses 32, 39, 41

1. note that this happened in Ephesus,
  - a) Paul was there when this happened
  - b) this is where Timothy was working when Paul wrote him this letter
2. the people of the city all came together in the theater
3. supposedly they were defending the honor of their goddess Artemis, or Diana
4. actually they were defending the money some of them made from the sale of religious paraphernalia

B. Even in an assembly called in the name of the false goddess Diana or Artemis, the town clerk scolded the Ephesians for their behavior

1. Acts 19:36 they were being loud when they should have been quiet
2. Acts 19:36 they were prepared to do something rash
3. Acts 19:39 their assembly was not lawful
4. Acts 19:40 they were in danger of getting in trouble from higher powers
5. Acts 19:40 what they were doing was not in keeping with the purpose of that assembly
6. Acty 19:40 their assembly was a “concourse” or “commotion” or “disorderly gathering”

C. So, in Ephesus, as in the surrounding Graeco-Roman pagan culture, the *ekklesia* was a meeting of the people either for secular political purposes, or, at least in the case of the riot in Ephesus, for supposedly religious purposes related to false gods like Diana or Artemis

What we call “the church” is, in the original Greek, the *ekklesia*

In the Old Testament scriptures, *ekklesia* referred to Israel, as called by God to assemble before Him as a congregation

The pagans where Timothy lived also called their assembly the *ekklesia*

IV. What We Call the Church Is the *Ekklesia* or Congregation of the Living God

- A. The phrase “the living God” is used many places in the Bible to distinguish the one true God from all false notions of gods
  - 1. e.g. Jeremiah 10:1-16
- B. So, our Lord’s apostle here identifies what we call “the church” as the congregation not of any dead statue of wood or stone or metal, but of the living God.
- C. If even the pagan city clerk of Ephesus scolded the *ekklesia* of Ephesus, assembled in the name of a lifeless false goddess made of silver, for their unruly behavior, how much more should we, who are the *ekklesia*, the congregation of the living God, be careful to conduct ourselves, to behave ourselves, as is fitting for those of His congregation

What we call “the church” is, in the original Greek, the *ekklesia*

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The Pagans Where Timothy Lived Also Called Their Assembly the *Ekklesia*

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## V. CONCLUSION

- A. It is a very ancient institution for the worshipers of the living God to be called by His servants to assemble, to form a congregation, for worship, and for that congregation to consist of the whole number of the people concerned
  1. therefore, men in positions of leadership, whether religious or civic leaders, should not think it within their purview to stop religious bodies from assembling to worship
    - a) whether in the days of established churches, when the establishment tried to stop the Baptists from assembling
    - b) nor today, when the powers that be in many jurisdictions try to stop the churches from assembling for worship, or from assembling as the full congregation
  2. nor should it be the practice of individual worshipers not to assemble
- B. The delivery of content to be consumed is not the essence of the *ekklesia*; therefore electronic delivery cannot sufficiently substitute for in-person gathering.
- C. What many people call “the church,” is a world-wide religious organization with Antichrist, the Pope in Rome, as its head. That organization is man-made. It has a man-made structure, man-made offices, man-made doctrine, man-made worship. That organization is not the biblical *ekklesia*. What we call “the church” is not what the Roman Catholics call “the church.”
- D. In no place in the New Testament does the word *ekklesia* refer to the building where the congregation assembles for worship.
  1. in many languages, a form of the word “church” means the building where the congregation meets for worship
  2. but most of those languages have a different word for translating *ekklesia* so that the building is called the church, but the congregation is called something else
  3. it is a quirk of English that we use the word “church” to mean the building, but we use the same word “church” to mean the congregation
  4. in the early 1500s, William Tyndale translated *ekklesia* as “congregacion;” but that did not endure; from the 1560 Geneva Bible on through the King James and after, *ekklesia* has been translated as “church”
  5. so, as English speakers, we have that in our Bibles, but we need to teach our children, that what our English Bibles call ‘the church’ is not any building, but is the congregation of the living God!

Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 149:1

Willie - Scripture Reading - Joshua 8:30-35

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Ephesians 3:20-21

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 580 “It Is Well With My Soul” (Andrew leading)

Rita - Trinity 442 “Behold Th’Amazing Gift of Love”

Rita - Trinity 413 “O Thou That Hear’st When Sinners Cry”

**congregation** G1577 *ekklesia* H6951 *qahal*

H6950 *qahal* means “to gather” or “to assemble” or “to congregate”

H6951 *qahal* means “the gathering” or “the assembly” or “the congregation”

When the Old Testament was translated into Greek, before the time Jesus came, this Hebrew word *qahal* was translated by the Greek word *ekklesia*. *Ekklesia* means literally “called out.” But it was used to mean gathering or assembly or congregation that formed when men were called out to assemble.

Deu 4:10 When God said to Moses, at Mt Sinai, “Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children,” then He spoke to them the Ten Commandments, God called that, in Hebrew, H6951 the *qahal*; when that was translated into Greek, it was called the *ekklesia*. Deu 9:10

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Joel 2:15 When God, by the prophet Joel, called for the people to be gathered, and told them to pray to the Lord, that He would save them, and prophesied to them about the days when the Holy Spirit would be poured out, and whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, that gather was called, in Hebrew, H6951 the *qahal*; when that was translated into Greek, it was called the *ekklesia*.

So, from the Old Testament, we know this concept:

-God, by His human messenger, calls for His people to come to him, gathering to worship Him

-in such a gathering, God's law and His gospel are proclaimed, and the people pray to God, thanking Him, praising Him, confessing their sins, and crying to Him to save them

So, when the New Testament had not yet been written, this Old Testament concept was already known in the Greek language as G1577 the *ekklesia*.

The Lord Jesus and His disciples then used that word, *ekklesia*, to name the New Covenant gathering or assembly or congregation of the disciples of Jesus Christ.

King James' 15 general rules

3. The Old Ecclesiastical Words to be kept, viz. the Word Church not to be translated Congregation &c.

14. These translations to be used when they agree better with the Text than the Bishops Bible: Tyndale's, Matthew's, Coverdale's, Whitchurch's, Geneva.

Tyndale: congregacion

Matthew (John Rogers): congregacion <https://bibles-online.net/flippingbook/1537/1066/>

Coverdale: congregacion <https://bibles-online.net/flippingbook/1535/1102/>

Great/Whitchurch: congregacion <https://bibles-online.net/flippingbook/1541/1010/>

1557 *The Genevan New Testament First Edition*: Church (as also 1583)

1 Timothy 3:15 Church (1560 and later, Church)

Mt 16:18 congregation (1560, 1583, 1587 Church)

<https://bibles-online.net/flippingbook/1557/110/>

<https://www.originalbibles.com/the-geneva-bible-1560/>

Mt 18:17 congregation (1560, 1583, 1587 Church)

<https://bibles-online.net/flippingbook/1557/116/>

<https://www.originalbibles.com/the-geneva-bible-1560/> p. 971

William Whittingham (1524-1579)

1557 New Testament by William Whittingham, printed in Geneva, “was essentially a revision of Tyndale’s revised and corrected 1534 edition.” That NT was not carried over into the 1560 Geneva Bible, but instead was extensively edited.

### **of the living God**

this is used to distinguish between the one true God and all false gods

1 Tim 3:15b

Tyndale 1526 the congregacion off the livynge God  
Coverdale 1535 the congregacion of the lyuyng God  
Matthew’s 1537 ye cogregacion of the lyuinge God  
Great Bible 1541 the congregacion of the lyuyng God  
Matthew-Tyndale 1549 the congregacion of the lyuinge God  
Jugge’s Tyndalde NT 1552 the congregation of the lyuyng God  
Geneva NT 1557 the Church of the lyuing God  
Bishops’ Bible 1568 the Church of the lyuyng God  
Geneva Bible 1583 the Church of the liuing God  
KJV 1611 the church of the living God  
NKJV the church of the living God  
ESV which is the church of the living God  
Statenvertaling de Gemeente des levenden Gods

Mt 16:18

Vulgate ecclesiam  
Anglo-Saxon 995 cyricean <https://bosworthtoller.com/007213>  
Wycliffe 1389 churche  
Luther 1522 *gemeyne* (now printed *Gemeinde*)  
Tyndale 1526 congregacion

Mt 18:17

Vulgate ecclesiam  
Anglo-Saxon 995 geferraedene <https://bosworthtoller.com/14337>  
Wycliffe 1389 chirche  
Luther 1522 *gemeyne* (now printed *Gemeinde*)  
Tyndale 1526 congregacion

Acts 2:47

Luther 1522 *gemeyne* (now printed *Gemeinde*)

There is nowhere in the Bible that the word “church” means the building in which the Christians meet for worship.



### **G1577 in NT regarding secular assembly**

Acts 19:23-41 NKJV And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. 24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. 25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." 28 Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" 29 So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. 30 And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. 31 Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. 32 Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. 34 But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" 35 And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? 36 Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. 38 Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. 39 But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly. 40 For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." 41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

### **G1577 in New Testament**

Matthew 16:18 NKJV And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 18:17 NKJV And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

Acts 2:47 NKJV praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 5:11 NKJV So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Acts 7:38 NKJV "This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,

Acts 8:1 NKJV Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:3 NKJV As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

Acts 9:31 NKJV Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

Acts 11:22 NKJV Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

Acts 11:26 NKJV And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Acts 12:1 NKJV Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church.

Acts 12:5 NKJV Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

Acts 13:1 NKJV Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 14:23 NKJV So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 14:27 NKJV Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Acts 15:3 NKJV So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.

Acts 15:4 NKJV And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.

Acts 15:22 NKJV Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

Acts 15:41 NKJV And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Acts 16:5 NKJV So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Acts 18:22 NKJV And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.

Acts 19:32 NKJV Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together.

Acts 19:39 NKJV But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly.

Acts 19:41 NKJV And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

Acts 20:17 NKJV From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

Acts 20:28 NKJV Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Romans 16:1 NKJV I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,

Romans 16:4 NKJV who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

Romans 16:5 NKJV Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.

Romans 16:16 NKJV Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:23 NKJV Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother.

1 Corinthians 1:2 NKJV To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

1 Corinthians 4:17 NKJV For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

1 Corinthians 6:4 NKJV If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

1 Corinthians 7:17 NKJV But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches.

1 Corinthians 10:32 NKJV Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,

1 Corinthians 11:16 NKJV But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

1 Corinthians 11:18 NKJV For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

1 Corinthians 11:22 NKJV What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

1 Corinthians 12:28 NKJV And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:4 NKJV He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

1 Corinthians 14:5 NKJV I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

1 Corinthians 14:12 NKJV Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

1 Corinthians 14:19 NKJV yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

1 Corinthians 14:23 NKJV Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

1 Corinthians 14:28 NKJV But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

1 Corinthians 14:33 NKJV For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

1 Corinthians 14:34 NKJV Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.

1 Corinthians 14:35 NKJV And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

1 Corinthians 15:9 NKJV For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Corinthians 16:1 NKJV Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

1 Corinthians 16:19 NKJV The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

2 Corinthians 1:1 NKJV Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia:

2 Corinthians 8:1 NKJV Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

2 Corinthians 8:18 NKJV And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches,

2 Corinthians 8:19 NKJV and not only that, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind,

2 Corinthians 8:23 NKJV If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

2 Corinthians 8:24 NKJV Therefore show to them, and before the churches the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.

2 Corinthians 11:8 NKJV I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.

2 Corinthians 11:28 NKJV besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 12:13 NKJV For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong!

Galatians 1:2 NKJV and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

Galatians 1:13 NKJV For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

Galatians 1:22 NKJV And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.

Ephesians 1:22 NKJV And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Ephesians 3:10 NKJV to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 3:21 NKJV to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 5:23 NKJV For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Ephesians 5:24 NKJV Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:25 NKJV Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Ephesians 5:27 NKJV that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:29 NKJV For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

Ephesians 5:32 NKJV This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Philippians 3:6 NKJV concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Philippians 4:15 NKJV Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

Colossians 1:18 NKJV And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Colossians 1:24 NKJV I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

Colossians 4:15 NKJV Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

Colossians 4:16 NKJV Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

1 Thessalonians 1:1 NKJV Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:14 NKJV For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,

2 Thessalonians 1:1 NKJV Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Thessalonians 1:4 NKJV so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

1 Timothy 3:5 NKJV (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

1 Timothy 3:15 NKJV but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1 Timothy 5:16 NKJV If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

Philemon 1:2 NKJV to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Hebrews 2:12 NKJV saying: "I WILL DECLARE YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN; IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY I WILL SING PRAISE TO YOU."

Hebrews 12:23 NKJV to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

James 5:14 NKJV Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

3 John 1:6 NKJV who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well,

3 John 1:9 NKJV I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.

3 John 1:10 NKJV Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.

Revelation 1:4 NKJV John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Revelation 1:11 NKJV saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Revelation 1:20 NKJV The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Revelation 2:1 NKJV "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, "These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

Revelation 2:7 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

Revelation 2:8 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, "These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

Revelation 2:11 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '

Revelation 2:12 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, "These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

Revelation 2:17 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." '

Revelation 2:18 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, "These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

Revelation 2:23 NKJV I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Revelation 2:29 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

Revelation 3:1 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, "These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Revelation 3:6 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

Revelation 3:7 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID, HE WHO OPENS AND NO ONE SHUTS, AND SHUTS AND NO ONE OPENS":

Revelation 3:13 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' "

Revelation 3:14 NKJV "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

Revelation 3:22 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' ' "

Revelation 22:16 NKJV "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

### **G1577 in LXX**

Deu 4:10 NKJV especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'

Deu 9:10 NKJV Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

Deu 18:16 NKJV according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'

Deu 23:1 NKJV "He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation shall not enter the assembly of the LORD.

Deu 23:2 NKJV "One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

Deu 23:3 NKJV "An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever,

Deu 23:8 NKJV The children of the third generation born to them may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Deu 31:30 NKJV Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song until they were ended:

Jos 8:35 NKJV There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

Jdg 20:2 NKJV And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand foot soldiers who drew the sword.



Jdg 21:5 NKJV The children of Israel said, "Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the assembly to the LORD?" For they had made a great oath concerning anyone who had not come up to the LORD at Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

Jdg 21:8 NKJV And they said, "What one is there from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to the LORD?" And, in fact, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh Gilead to the assembly.

1Sa 17:47 NKJV Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

1Sa 19:20 NKJV Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

1Ki 8:14 NKJV Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.

1Ki 8:22 NKJV Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven;

1Ki 8:55 NKJV Then he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying:

1Ki 8:65 NKJV At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven more days--fourteen days.

1Ch 13:2 NKJV And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may gather together to us;

1Ch 13:4 NKJV Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

1Ch 28:2 NKJV Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it.

1Ch 28:8 NKJV Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever.

1Ch 29:1 NKJV Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the LORD God.

1Ch 29:10 NKJV Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.

1Ch 29:20 NKJV Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God." So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king.

2Ch 1:3 NKJV Then Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for the tabernacle of meeting with God was there, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.

2Ch 1:5 NKJV Now the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD; Solomon and the assembly sought Him there.

2Ch 6:3 NKJV Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.

2Ch 6:12 NKJV Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands

2Ch 6:13 NKJV (for Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and he stood on it, knelt down on his knees before all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven);

2Ch 7:8 NKJV At that time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt.

2Ch 10:3 NKJV Then they sent for him and called him. And Jeroboam and all Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

2Ch 20:5 NKJV Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

2Ch 20:14 NKJV Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

2Ch 23:3 NKJV Then all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said to them, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD has said of the sons of David.

2Ch 28:14 NKJV So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the leaders and all the assembly.

2Ch 29:23 NKJV Then they brought out the male goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them.

2Ch 29:28 NKJV So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

2Ch 29:31 NKJV Then Hezekiah answered and said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near, and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD." So the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings, and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.

2Ch 29:32 NKJV And the number of the burnt offerings which the assembly brought was seventy bulls, one hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD.

2Ch 30:2 NKJV For the king and his leaders and all the assembly in Jerusalem had agreed to keep the Passover in the second month.

2Ch 30:4 NKJV And the matter pleased the king and all the assembly.

2Ch 30:13 NKJV Now many people, a very great assembly, gathered at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month.

2Ch 30:17 NKJV For there were many in the assembly who had not sanctified themselves; therefore the Levites had charge of the slaughter of the Passover lambs for everyone who was not clean, to sanctify them to the LORD.

2Ch 30:23 NKJV Then the whole assembly agreed to keep the feast another seven days, and they kept it another seven days with gladness.

2Ch 30:24 NKJV For Hezekiah king of Judah gave to the assembly a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep, and the leaders gave to the assembly a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep; and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.

2Ch 30:25 NKJV The whole assembly of Judah rejoiced, also the priests and Levites, all the assembly that came from Israel, the sojourners who came from the land of Israel, and those who dwelt in Judah.

Ezr 2:64 NKJV The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

Ezr 10:1 NKJV Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly.

Ezr 10:8 NKJV and that whoever would not come within three days, according to the instructions of the leaders and elders, all his property would be confiscated, and he himself would be separated from the assembly of those from the captivity.

Ezr 10:12 NKJV Then all the assembly answered and said with a loud voice, "Yes! As you have said, so we must do.

Ezr 10:14 NKJV Please, let the leaders of our entire assembly stand; and let all those in our cities who have taken pagan wives come at appointed times, together with the elders and judges of their cities, until the fierce wrath of our God is turned away from us in this matter."

Neh 5:7 NKJV After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, "Each of you is exacting usury from his brother." So I called a great assembly against them.

Neh 5:13 NKJV Then I shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out each man from his house, and from his property, who does not perform this promise. Even thus may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.

Neh 7:66 NKJV Altogether the whole assembly was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

Neh 8:2 NKJV So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month.

Neh 8:17 NKJV So the whole assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths; for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had not done so. And there was very great gladness.

Neh 13:1 NKJV On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people, and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever come into the assembly of God,

Job 30:28 NKJV I go about mourning, but not in the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help.

Psa 22:22 NKJV I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

Psa 22:25 NKJV My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

Psa 26:5 NKJV I have hated the assembly of evildoers, And will not sit with the wicked.

Psa 26:12 NKJV My foot stands in an even place; In the congregations I will bless the LORD.

Psa 35:18 NKJV I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people.

Psa 40:9 NKJV I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know.

Psa 68:26 NKJV Bless God in the congregations, The Lord, from the fountain of Israel.

Psa 89:5 NKJV And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.

Psa 107:32 NKJV Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, And praise Him in the company of the elders.

Psa 149:1 NKJV Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints.

Pro 5:14 NKJV I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation."

Lam 1:10 NKJV The adversary has spread his hand Over all her pleasant things; For she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary, Those whom You commanded Not to enter Your assembly.

Joe 2:16 NKJV Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.

Mic 2:5 NKJV Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD.

## **The living God**

Exact phrase in English OT

Deuteronomy 5:26 NKJV For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?

Joshua 3:10 NKJV And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:

1 Samuel 17:26 NKJV Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

1 Samuel 17:36 NKJV Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

2 Kings 19:4 NKJV It may be that the LORD your God will hear all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.' "

2 Kings 19:16 NKJV Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

Psalms 42:2 NKJV My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

Psalms 84:2 NKJV My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Isaiah 37:4 NKJV It may be that the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.' "

Isaiah 37:17 NKJV Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

Jeremiah 10:10 NKJV But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

Jeremiah 23:36 NKJV And the oracle of the LORD you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God.

Daniel 6:20 NKJV And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Daniel 6:26 NKJV I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end.

Hosea 1:10 NKJV "Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'

Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 149:1

Willie - Scripture Reading - Joshua 8:30-35

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Ephesians 3:20-21

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 580 "It Is Well With My Soul" (Andrew leading)

Rita - Trinity 442 "Behold Th'Amazing Gift of Love"

Rita - Trinity 413 "O Thou That Hear'st When Sinners Cry"