

FAMILY NEWS

MARCH 11, 2018

Madrid
CHURCH OF CHRIST

"COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS..."

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER:

- Janis & family
- Larry & Franki
- Erb & Jan
- Sandy
- Bart
- Sam Davidson - Next MRI is March 22nd. Pray for good results.
- Alicia & Samantha and their babies
- Cooper & parents
- Our shepherds & deacons
- Evangelists we support in the U.S. and Africa (Jason, Brewer, Esrael, Bob B., & others)
- New Christians - spiritual growth
- Widows

THIS WEEK'S READING:

3/12 - Judges 17-19

3/13 - Judges 20-21;
Ruth 1

3/14 - Ruth 2-4

3/15 - 1 Sam 1-3

3/16 - 1 Sam 4-6

3/17 - 1 Sam 7-10

3/18 - 1 Sam 11-13

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)



"And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." ³³ And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.'" (Mark 3:32-35, ESV)

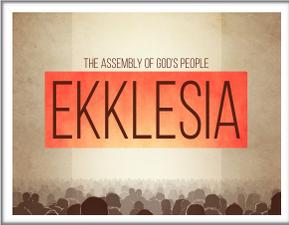
Jesus considers all Christians (those who do the will of the Father in Heaven) to be family. We're not kind of like a family. We ARE family.

Christians often talk about how "family" is everything, but usually what they mean by this is the family they were physically born into. Biblically speaking, we need to keep two things in mind. First, family is not "everything." Jesus is! When one says, "Family (physically speaking) is everything," then this may show an idolatrous attitude towards our physical relationships. Second, after Jesus, our spiritual family comes #1, not necessarily our physical family. The blood of Christ that joins God's people together is thicker than water, or better, the blood of Christ is thicker than the blood of physical relation.

It is surely a blessing whenever our physical family contains disciples of Christ, but even when that is the case, we need to be careful not to neglect the rest of the family God has given us in Christ. This is especially a danger in a congregation like ours since the congregation is made up mostly of a few large families. Often our physical family can lead us to forget that the LORD calls His people to work with, nourish, and support more than just our physical family outside of the assemblies. We should not do one to the neglect of the other, and we need to be careful not to make those who are members of the Christian assembly we associate with feel like "outsiders" because of the emphasis we put on our physical family.

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10, ESV)

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."



TODAY'S INTERACTIVE OUTLINE

Ekklesia

The Assembly of God's People

Today we are beginning a new series that is designed to help us understand what the Bible teaches about the Lord's church. This is a challenging topic because it is one of those topics that we can misunderstand either because we adopt the language others use about the church, or we may just accept what we have been taught about the church without testing it to see if it is Biblical. As we go through this series in the coming weeks, let's make it our goal to keep our hearts open to what the word of God shows us about the church of God.

I. What is Ekklesia?

A. 'Ekklesia' is the Greek word that is translated in our English Bibles as _____.

1. What do you think of when you hear the word 'church'?

B. Defining Ekklesia: The Greek word means: an assembly, a congregation, or a gathering of people. It is not inherently a _____ word. Any group of people with a shared identity or purpose could be called an ekklesia.

1. See Acts 19:32, 41; Acts 19:39; Acts 7:38

II. How is 'Ekklesia' used in the New Testament in reference to God's people?

A. To talk about all of God's people who have been saved by the blood of Christ (the "universal church")

1. Heb 12:23 — "the _____ of the firstborn..."

2. Matthew 16:18 — "I will build my church." (one church that is His)

3. Only God knows for certain who is in this assembly of people (2 Timothy 2:19).

B. To describe a group of Christians living in a geographic location who meet together

1. "To the church _____ that is in Corinth..." (1 Cor. 1:2, ESV)

2. "...To the church of the Thessalonians..." (1 Thess. 1:1, ESV)

3. "...To the churches of Galatia..." (Gal. 1:2, ESV)

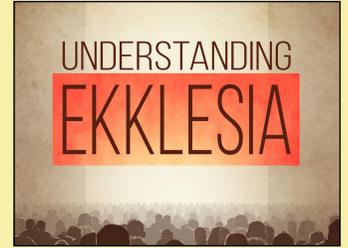
a) Using the same type of language, we would describe ourselves as the church of those who are from Madrid, Boone, Luther, etc.

C. To describe a local church that has _____ together.

1. We have responsibilities to one another whether we are assembled together or not.

2. See 1 Corinthians 14:19, 34-35 — note the phrase "in church" (ESV)

CURRENT SERIES:



MY NOTES & QUESTIONS: