

The Church: Universal and Local

Colossians 1:18b

Last Sunday Morning we studied three declarations from the Bible about JESUS CHRIST:

- (1) JESUS CHRIST Is God
- (2) JESUS CHRIST Created All Things
- (3) JESUS CHRIST Is The Only Savior

Then on Wednesday night in our study of **Isaiah 53** we studied various descriptive words revealing **why JESUS CHRIST is the Only Savior.**

<u>He poured out His soul to death</u>	Spiritual death Isaiah 53:12
<u>I lay down my soul</u>	John 10:17
<u>Render His soul as a guilt offering</u>	Isaiah 53:10
<u>emptied Himself</u>	Philippians 2:7
<u>humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death of the cross</u>	Philippians 2:8
<u>offered Himself up to God</u>	Hebrews 9:14
<u>offered Himself to bear the sins of many</u>	Hebrews 9:28

<u>but He having been offered, one sacrifice for sins, for all time</u>	Hebrews 10:12
<u>taste death for everyone</u>	Hebrews 2:9
<u>gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God</u>	Ephesians 5:2 (This parallels Isaiah 53:10 if He would render His soul As a Guilt offering.)
<u>And gave Himself up for her</u>	The Church Ephesians 5:25
<u>delivered over because of our transgressions</u>	Romans 4:25

We learn so much about our Savior in a study just of these words describing how **He went to the cross for us, in our place that we might gain ETERNAL LIFE.**

There is the voluntary will of JESUS CHRIST—**FREE-WILL**; sorry Calvinist; if you deny free-will to angels and mankind you have no Salvation by the free-will of JESUS CHRIST offering Himself to the Perfect Righteousness (+R) of Holy God.

**This point alone
makes the sacrifice of JESUS CHRIST
superior to animal sacrifices...;**

animals had no choice –His offering of Himself was voluntary, not by constraint, as was the case with animal sacrifices.

So if you take away the free-will of JESUS CHRIST
Then His sacrifice is not superior to that of animal sacrifice.

His offering of Himself was a rational voluntary offering—
—again, unlike animals
which have no rhyme or reason of what is going on.

BUT, PEOPLE, OUR DEAR SAVIOR KNEW WHAT WAS GOING TO
HAPPEN IF HE RENDERED HIS SOUL **A GUILT OFFERING**, GUILT
SACRIFICE; HIS SPIRITUAL DEATH FROM GOD ALMIGHTY, WHO
WAS PLEASED TO CRUSH HIS SOUL. (Isaiah 53:10)

that you and I might have Eternal Life
and eternal fellowship
with God the Father and His Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ;

Jesus THE ONLY ONE ANOINTED BY GOD to bring the gracious
offering of Salvation to all mankind.

Now we resume our study of Colossians 1:18.

18 **He is the head of the body, the church**

Colossians 1:18

He emphatic pronoun, **He, Himself** or **He and only He is** this
presents the absolute status of JESUS CHRIST since the beginning
of the Church Age.

He is also there is no 'also' in ' the original manuscript.

He is the head of course it comes from that portion of the human anatomy, but is used to designate Him as superior or the one in full authority. The head contains the brain which controls and dictates the functions of the body. The head contains the human soul and therefore becomes a synonym for full authority.

**There is no higher authority in the church than
JESUS CHRIST.**

He, JESUS CHRIST is the Head.

**Ok, we start off with a Principle for our lives.
AUTHORITY!**

Do you respect, pay attention, submit and obey the head of the church?

Be careful before you answer this question.

JESUS CHRIST does not personally direct things in every specific area of the body. He has appointed subordinates to do this for Him.

For example, the husband is the head of the wife:

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church

Colossians 1:18

He is the head of the body of the church

The **head** is JESUS CHRIST, and the **body** is The Church.

The Church refers to every born again believer during the Church AGE also called *the* **universal church**.

The Greek word for church **ekklesia** which refers to the 'called out ones' and refers

- 1) To the Church Universal, referring to believers wherever they are found throughout the world; and
- 2) The local church, which often has unbelievers as members and sometimes even an unbeliever as the pastor of that local assembly, but before God, even the local church is made up of believers who attend and worship in a local assembly.

Doctrine of the Church

(1) Nomenclature:

The name or nomenclature is the word **ekklesia** or the called out ones or the church. It is used in a technical or specified manner in New Testament.

Now right here from the beginning we have some difficulties.

(1) It refers to the UNIVERSAL church, that is inclusive of believers wherever they are found on the earth.

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 **And He (God the Father) put all things in subjection under His (JESUS CHRIST) feet, and gave Him (JESUS CHRIST) as head over all things to the church,**

23 **which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

So, we must understand that it is the Sovereignty of God the Father who appointed JESUS CHRIST as head of The Church and we are each to be filled by the person of JESUS CHRIST.

Another passage that speaks of the Church universal and gives more information about the church is

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,**

26 **so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, sound teaching of Bible.**

27 **that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.**

This takes place at the rapture of the church and at the presentation of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb after His Return to Earth.

(2) But this term is also inclusive of **every local church; in any geographical location on earth.** Again, by design the local church is made up of believers but there are unbelievers in almost every local church.

Beginning of the Church Age.

Nearly all sound theologians, evangelical, agree **The Church Age** began on the Day of Pentecost.

- A. The beginning of Church Age was future to the time JESUS CHRIST was on earth. In others **words JESUS CHRIST is never physically present on earth during the Church Age.**

Some people hold that the Church Age began in Gospel of John 20 when JESUS CHRIST breathed on the disciples and they were Indwelt with the Holy Spirit but the problem here is that JESUS CHRIST was still on the earth and this was technically Age of Israel.

Now, one might ask, where does the idea of JESUS CHRIST not being on earth during the Church Age originate?

Matthew 16:18

18 **“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build (future tense) **My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.**”**

Satan has tried for some 2000 years to overpower the church, and His Church still stands. This passage also teaches the false teaching of “Reform Theology” that the church was in Old Testament, that the church began in Abraham’s tent.

This is a confusion of Israel and the Church, which leads to a number of problems, as does “Replacement Theology” that teaches that the Church replaces Israel in God’s plan and there is no future for Israel.

There is so much confusion in the study of the bible beginning with correct understanding of the Gospel.

Again, TWO PRINCIPLES

- (1) The most dangerous thing you will do in you life is to open the Word of God.
- (2) Why it is so important as to whom you listen to in the teaching of Biblical truth.

B. The Church Age did not begin in **Acts 1: 5** where JESUS CHRIST was speaking to the disciples, while He was still on earth, just before He ascended into the THIRD HEAVEN to sit at the right hand of God the Father on the Fathers throne:

“for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Again we have the future tense—after the departure of JESUS CHRIST from earth. And JESUS CHRIST all but clearly tells us with the Church Age began **you will be baptized with Holy Spirit.**

- C. So The Church Age began historically when for the first time in history **God the Holy Spirit baptizes everyone who believes in Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior.** JESUS CHRIST Himself gave us the clue in Acts 1:5 when He related the coming of change by the coming of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of or by the Holy Spirit is advanced to even when, in John 20, JESUS CHRIST breathed on the disciples and they received the Holy Spirit. This also heads off those who believe that the Church Age began with Paul.

The Church Age is not about an ordinary member of the human race; it is about the **God-man**, the unique member of the human race, Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

The Church Age began on the day of the beginning of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Now back in **Acts 1:5** JESUS CHRIST told the disciples **for John baptized with water**, this baptism was in Age of Israel **but** in contrast **you will be** future **baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now** and the not many days was in fact 10 days. Now in those 10 days JESUS CHRIST will ascend to the THIRD HEAVEN and be seated at the Right Hand of God. Then, and only then the Church Age can begin.

**So the Church Age
began after the departure of JESUS CHRIST
from earth.**

The beginning of the Church Age is described in
1 Corinthians 12:12-13

12 **For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.**

13 **For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

D. The historical moment of the beginning of the Church Age is described in Acts 2:1-3.

1. **When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.**

The Feast of Pentecost, “Fiftieth”—because it fell on the 50th day after the Sabbath of the Passover;

JESUS CHRIST rose from the dead on the First Day of the Week, ministered for 40 days, then ascended into heaven
and
10 days later
—[50 days]—
was the sending of the Holy Spirit.

It amazes me how much one has to ignore to realize that the Church began on Day of Pentecost.

Hyperdispensationalist have to separate the Church from Israel in every way, but the Bible has them so closely related.

they were all together in one place

Why?

Because they listened to the instructions of the Lord.

Look back at 1:4-5:

Gospel of John 14:16 and 26; 15:26; Acts 2:33

in one place Where?

Note 1:13 Where exactly is not all that important but the fact that this kind of information is given confirms the reality of the entire event.

Now what is important is the name and the significance of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost.

The feast of Pentecost is also known as **Feast of Weeks** which is the second of the three '**solemn feasts**' in that all Jewish males were required to travel to Jerusalem for this feast.

Exodus 23:14-17 and 34:22-23;
and
Deuteronomy 16:10 and 16

This important feast gets its name from the fact that it starts **seven full weeks**, or **exactly 50 days**, after the Feast of First fruits.

Since it takes place exactly 50 days after the previous feast, the feast of First Fruits **is also known** as "Pentecost".

Numbers 28:26 and Exodus 23:16a.

Now for the spiritual impact of the **Baptism** of the Holy Spirit: The designation **First fruits** Those who received the **Baptism** of the Holy Spirit and the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 are recognized as "**first fruits** of a greater harvest".

As E. Harrison, as well as others, point out
"A Jew could hardly avoid making such an association."

On the basis of Leviticus 23:15 note, the seven full weeks were to be counted after the Sabbath (*or the first day of the week*) Pentecost fell on the first day of the week, providing a link with the Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST (first day of the week). Luke 24:1-7.

So this day is most significant:

- (1) JESUS CHRIST is first fruits Resurrection
- (2) These believers are the first fruits to receive the **Baptism** of the Holy Spirit and the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit—**First Fruits**.

Acts 2:

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Note two things:

1. Be sure and note the comparative adverb **like** so this is not a violent rushing wind blowing. It was the *sound* that filled the house not a wind.
2. Also note carefully that **it filled the whole house** it does not say it filled them but it filled the house where they were sitting. These things preceded or accompanied the coming of the Holy Spirit; It is amazing how nearly everyone accepts this coming of the Holy Spirit but have great trouble with the removal of the Holy Spirit at the rapture of the church.

Suddenly ok, they are sitting in the room, we are not told what they were doing at that moment, eating, praying, talking, not told, but we are told that **suddenly** no warning and we are told where this noise comes **from heaven** what this tells us is that this **is supernatural phenomenon and that the Holy Spirit came from the THIRD HEAVEN**

suddenly, from heaven, a noise!

Actually **a sound.**

What kind of sound?

What was it like? **Like a violent rushing wind**

like wholly as, exactly like **violent rushing wind** we do not want to miss that the *violence* is used to describe the rushing or blowing, not the wind – it was not a violent wind but the sound of a **violent blowing or rushing**—the force is not as a character of the wind but as an aspect of the blowing that is this describes not the wind but the power of the blowing or rushing.

What is the subject of the verb **filled** **“it” filled the whole house?** **Noise is the subject of filled** the noise was like just the sound of a strong wind when it is blowing.

Lets take a look at what we learn about the Holy Spirit from verse 2:

1. He is from heaven, just as JESUS CHRIST is from heaven
2. He is not seen, but heard
3. He can occupy a space---throughout the house; This is not unlike His first appearance in Scripture:
Gen. 1:2 ...

the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit) was hovering over the surface of the waters

First they hear a **SOUND** like rushing wind throughout the house. This is followed by something they see! We can only well imagine that the sound got their attention and everyone is looking around: perhaps some are looking upward, some are looking at each other and others their eyes are making a sweep of the whole room and what do they see?

- 3 **And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.**

Now, before we go any further, while this may have caused an immediate fear in most, remember they are expecting **something from God, they are expecting another like Jesus... deity, only as a Spirit—**

Acts 1:4-5

4 **Gathering them together, He (JESUS CHRIST) commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me;**

5 **for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”**

They did not know how this was going to happen, but they were expecting God the Holy Spirit to come to them. Gospel of John 14: 16-17

16 **“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another *parakletos*, (ancilla) that He may be with you forever;**

17 ***that is the Spirit of truth* though He will be like Me, but He will not be human, He will be Spirit **whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.****

Now back to **Acts 2:3** and this is what is now happening **and there appeared to them, tongues as of fire distributing themselves there appeared.**

The Aorist Passive Indicative of the Greek word means to see, and to understand what one sees; this is different than another Greek word which also means to see, but not necessarily understand what you are looking at. This verb ‘to appear’ is in the Passive voice—this received being made where it can be seen and the all important Indicative.

This is reality. This historically happened on this day!

and there received appearance to them

Whether this is just the **12 disciples** of 1:13 or **26 or more believers** as in 1:14 or the **120 believers** as in 1:15.

It is very interesting in these verses 13-15 a rather precise number is stated –perhaps letting us know all these were gathered in this house.

To them is a Dative of Advantage...this was to their advantage to see these tongues of fire.

Appeared to them as tongues as of fire

The original manuscripts do not have two comparative **as** only one:

In fact the original manuscript says...

And there was cause to appear to them again for their advantage.

being distributed Present Passive Participle of the Greek **dia-merizo**. **dia** denoting separation + **merizo** to divide “to separate into parts or divide up; in the Passive Participle means divided flames or divided out to each person from one common source,” doing the dividing and the distributing The King James translates this verb **cloven tongues** past tense of *to cleave—to divide, to split*. Now, the picture seems to be that the fire appeared as one, then split off and set upon each one.

And there was caused to appear to them being distributed now tongues as of fire. The Greek word for *tongue* can refer to a physical tongue or as the instrument of speaking **As** In verse 2 **like a violent rushing wind** here **as of fire** this is a conditional adverb—**as if, as**

though tongues as of fire

This is not literal fire but had the appearance of fire **as of fire and they rested on each one of them**
the Greek **and sat on each one of them**

1. God the Holy Spirit Being represented as *tongues of fire*
(1) **John The Baptist had foretold would baptize in the Holy Spirit by wind and fire**
Luke 3:16-17 and the 11 Apostles knew of this prophecy by John the Baptist. So there could no mistake of what was going on. that this was the fulfillment of what John the Baptist said and what Christ told them to be looking for.
2. This clearly recalls the presence of God Himself to Moses:
Exodus 3:2 **The angel of the LORD appeared to him Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.** The presence of God
3. Exodus 13:21 God leading the people of Israel through the wilderness. **The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night**

4. **Exodus 19:18**

Now Mount Sinai *was* all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.

5. One that we have noted in our study of the tabernacle and Temple.

Exodus 40:38

For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.

1 Kings 18:38 -39

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.”

[2]

Tongues of fire

Why tongues?

Why not pillars?

Why not swords of fire?

Why tongues of fire?

The word **tongue** in the Greek, can refer to the physical tongue or it can refer to language, the instrument of communication.—the **communication of the Gospel!**

Good news told to the world. Under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit believers in JESUS CHRIST would be able as one, though scattered throughout the world to tell, the good news of JESUS CHRIST—His Death Burial Resurrection Ascension and Session [DBRAS]. And the phrase **rested on each one** is very important each one individually:

[3]

Let us note **Two signs**
One “sound for the ears” and
the other “sight for the eyes.”

As Harrison points out it was the combination of these two that confirmed who JESUS CHRIST was. Matthew 4:13-17.

So now, the apostles knew this was what JESUS CHRIST was speaking of in Acts 1:4-5 and the Gospel of John 14.

All that had happened...from heaven was just too realistic and emphatic and historical not to be realized as the fulfillment of the promise.

Luke 3:16

¹⁶ John answered and said to them all, “As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 14:16-17

16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

12 For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18

18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 4:4-6

4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

1 John 3:24

24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Acts 2:1-4

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

From one Spirit, they all partook and now we resume our study in verse 4

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, (audible languages) as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

So the Church Age began on the Day of Pentecost as prophesied by JESUS CHRIST.

What happen on this **Day of Pentecost** is recorded in Acts 2?

Two major historical phenomena occurred.

First	Baptism of the Holy Spirit
-------	-----------------------------------

Second	Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
--------	--------------------------------------

The Church Age began with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Inwelling of the Holy Spirit accompanies the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

What is the difference between what happened to the 11 disciples in John 20:22 and what occurred in Acts 2:1-4?

John 20:22

22 **And when He had said this, He He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."**

First	This is a post resurrection appearance of JESUS CHRIST.
-------	---------------------------------------------------------

Second	This is the first time JESUS CHRIST appeared to the disciples gathered together after His Resurrection
--------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Third This was simply the beginning of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit but not the Baptism of the Holy Spirit;

What happened in Acts 2:
is both the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior in the Church Age receives some 34 things from God. Two of which are:

(1) Indwelling of the [Holy Spirit](#)

(2) Baptism of the [Holy Spirit](#)

We will look at these two next Sunday!

Now, for further comfort:

While the heavens and the earth will be destroyed

the Bible is unchangeable,

His Word abideth forever.

You have more comfort, more stability in the Word of God than you do in the universe.

You can rest in His Faithfulness of your Eternal existence with Him.

Amen

You have to make up your mind:

Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:
to God the Father;
and to you?**

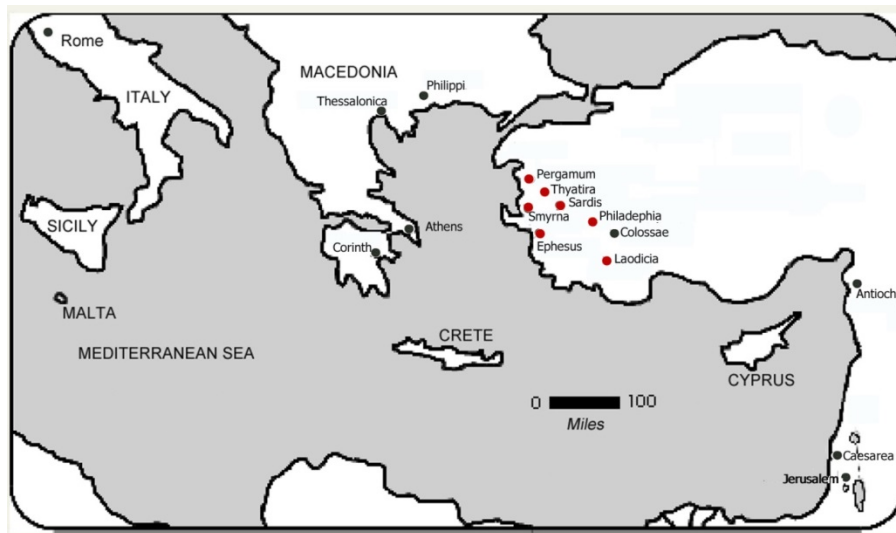
Is the Word of God sufficient for you?

Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the Word of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in
your life or do you need outside help?

So we learn so much from the true understanding of the Gospel.



**Only one life,' twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last**