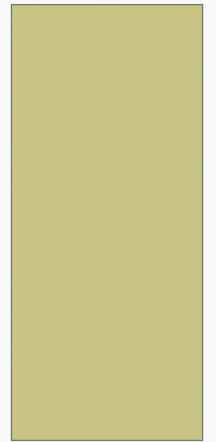


# DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

JUNE - AUGUST 2014



# OVERVIEW OF CLASS

13 LESSONS

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 1 What is the church?

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- 1 What is the church?
- 2 Christ the King and Head of the church

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- 1 What is the church?
- 2 Christ the King and Head of the church
- 3 The members of the church

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- 3 The members of the church
- 4 The attributes of the church

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- 1 What is the church?
- 2 Christ the King and Head of the church
- 3 The members of the church
- 4 The attributes of the church
- 5 The marks of the church



# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- **6 The worship of the church**

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 6 The worship of the church
- 7 Baptism

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 6 The worship of the church
- 7 Baptism
- 8 The Lord's Supper

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

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- 7 Baptism
- 8 The Lord's Supper
- 9 The nurture of the church

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 6 The worship of the church
- 7 Baptism
- 8 The Lord's Supper
- 9 The nurture of the church
- 10 The mission of the church

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 11 The officers of the church

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 11 The officers of the church
- 12 The governing assemblies of the church

# THIRTEEN LESSONS

- 11 The officers of the church
- 12 The governing assemblies of the church
- 13 The discipline of the church



# LESSON 1

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

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- Jesus used the word church to describe the entity that he came to build
- The disciples were familiar with the term from the Old Testament

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 16:15-17)

18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt 16:18-19)

# WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

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- Meaning of the term “church”



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# WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- Meaning of the term “church”
- *Ecclesia* (Gk); *Qahal* (Hb)
- Divine institution
- The church is “the church of God” and “the church of Christ”

# WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- **Not a human institution**

# WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- Not a human institution
- A society of like-minded people for purpose of religious activities

# WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- Not a human institution
- A society of like-minded people for purpose of religious activities
- Theological; not sociological or anthropological

# WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- To define “church,” must begin w/ what God has done in Christ

# WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- To define “church,” must begin w/ what God has done in Christ
- A creation of God



“The church points beyond itself. It does not owe its origin to human initiative, or its continued existence to human faithfulness. The church is God’s work. It is [as Luther said] a creation of the gospel.” J. van Genderen and W. H. Velema

# IMAGES OF THE CHURCH

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- Body of Christ, bride of Christ, family of God, etc.

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- Body of Christ, bride of Christ, family of God, etc.
- 2 images: sacred assembly, dwelling place of God

# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

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# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- Scripture portrays the church as a sacred assembly
- *Qahal* means “assembly”
- Prototypical assembly of Israel at Sinai (Exodus 24)

“The *ecclesia* of God is that assembly before the Lord of which Sinai was the great pattern.” Ed. Clowney

# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- Ex. 24 provides the theological meaning of word *ecclesia* in Matt. 16.18

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- This assembly constituted them as “the people of God”
- Heb. 12, cf. two assemblies (two covenants)

For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched, and a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. For they could not bear what was commanded, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling."

But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly [ἐκκλησία] of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better things than the blood of Abel ...

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace by which we may worship [λατρεύω] God acceptably with reverence and awe ... (Heb. 12.18–29).



# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- The assembly exists for worship

# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- The assembly exists for worship
- Having assembled on God's holy mt., the church is called to worship w/ rev. and awe

# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- The assembly exists for worship
- Having assembled on God's holy mt., the church is called to worship w/ rev. and awe
- The church is a heavenly assembly around the exalted Christ

Local assemblies/congregations are  
“earthly manifestations of that  
heavenly gathering around the risen  
Christ.” P. T. O’Brien

# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- The reality of this heavenly assembly gives significance to the earthly gathering of even two or three in Christ's name

# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- The reality of this heavenly assembly gives significance to the earthly gathering of even two or three in Christ's name
- Even the smallest assembly of saints may be called a church

“Where two or three are gathered in Christ’s name, not only is Christ present among them, but a Christian church is there as well.” M. Volf

# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- The Lord himself gathers and builds the church



# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

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# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- The Lord himself gathers and builds the church
- Not a mere human activity
- Heid. Cat. (LD21) – it is Christ who “gathers, defends and preserves his church”
- Through preaching of gospel

# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- Wherever the gospel is preached, Christ is present, gathering his church

# THE SACRED ASSEMBLY

- Wherever the gospel is preached, Christ is present, gathering his church
- Where the gospel is not present, there is no church either

# GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

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- The church is the dwelling place of God

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- The church is the dwelling place of God
- God's presence with his people is permanent, not periodic



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# GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

- The church is the dwelling place of God
- God's presence with his people is permanent, not periodic
- After Sinai, God dwelt with them in the tabernacle/temple
- Metaphor for the church

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (1 Cor. 3:16-17)

<sup>16</sup> What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (2 Cor. 6:16)

<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (Eph. 2:19-20)

<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.  
(Eph. 2:21-22)

# GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

- Day of Pentecost, church became temple of Holy Spirit

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- Day of Pentecost, church became temple of Holy Spirit
- Gift of the Spirit definitive and permanent



# GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

- Day of Pentecost, church became temple of Holy Spirit
- Gift of the Spirit definitive and permanent
- The church is a spiritual house, a dwelling place for God

You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ ... you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people ... (1Pet. 2.5–10).

# THE PEOPLE OF GOD

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- The assembly at Mt. Sinai was a covenant-making ceremony

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# THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- The assembly at Mt. Sinai was a covenant-making ceremony
- God became their God; they became his people
- The assembly (church) is the covenant people of God gathered before him

<sup>7</sup> Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." <sup>8</sup> And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." (Ex. 24:7-8)

# THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- God's initiative



# THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- God's initiative
- God chose to be their God

# THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- God's initiative
- God chose to be their God
- God redeemed them and established his covenant with them

# THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- God's initiative
- God chose to be their God
- God redeemed them and established his covenant with them
- This covenant now includes the Gentiles

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh ... <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Eph 2:11-12)

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> ... that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, (Eph 2:13-15)

<sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. (Eph 2:16-18)

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (Eph 2:19-20)

<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.  
(Eph 2.21-22)



<sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Gal 3:27-29)

# THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- The church consists of the covenanted people of God throughout all ages of redemptive history

# THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- The church consists of the covenanted people of God throughout all ages of redemptive history
- One covenant of grace; various administrations

# THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- The church consists of the covenanted people of God throughout all ages of redemptive history
- One covenant of grace; various administrations
- One church, one covenant, one redeemer, one family

“It is not an incidental characteristic of the church as the people of God that it is not impeded by borders dictated by nationality, race, or culture. This is essential for the church. Neither is time a dividing factor. The people of God on earth constitute a unity with all those who in the past were his people and in the future will be his people, for the Lord’s work of gathering the church is ongoing. We call this the catholicity of the church.”

Genderen and Velema

# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

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- Distinction b/w visible and invisible church

# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

- Distinction b/w visible and invisible church
- Not two churches but one church w/ two aspects



# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

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- Not two churches but one church w/ two aspects
- Invisible church = elect

# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

- Distinction b/w visible and invisible church
- Not two churches but one church w/ two aspects
- Invisible church = elect
- Elect known only to God; invisible to us

WCF 25.1. The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

WCF 25.2. The visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

- Visible church = all who profess true religion, w/ their children

# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

- Visible church = all who profess true religion, w/ their children
- Visible church = mixture of elect and non-elect people

# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

- Visible church = all who profess true religion, w/ their children
- Visible church = mixture of elect and non-elect people
- One church w/ two aspects

“There cannot be two churches, one that is visible and another that is invisible. There is but one Church, and that Church is visible or invisible just according to the eye that is looking, just according to the point of view taken ... Now, the distinction I make is, the Church as God sees it, and the Church as man sees it.” A. A. Hodge



"This visible church comprehends hypocrites and formal professors, as well as those that are effectually called and regenerated. On this account the church is compared to a floor, in which there is not only wheat but also chaff (Mat. 3.12); to a field, where tares as well as good seed are sown (Mat. 13.24-25); to a net, which gathers bad fish together with the good (v. 47); to a great house, in which are vessels of every kind, some to honor and some to dishonor (2 Tim. 2.20)." R. Shaw

# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

- **Institutional model  
overemphasizes visible aspect**

# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

- Institutional model  
overemphasizes visible aspect
- Mystical communion model,  
invisible aspect

# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

- Institutional model  
overemphasizes visible aspect
- Mystical communion model,  
invisible aspect
- People of God model, balance  
b/w visible and invisible

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 1

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- The church is a divine institution; “the church of God”

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- The church is a divine institution; “the church of God”
- The church is a sacred assembly, a heavenly assembly gathered around the exalted Christ

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 1

- Christ himself gathers, builds and preserves the church through the preaching of the gospel



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- Christ himself gathers, builds and preserves the church through the preaching of the gospel
- The church is the dwelling place of God, the house where God dwells by his Spirit

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 1

- The church is the covenant people of God

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 1

- The church is the covenant people of God
- God chose us, redeemed us and established his covenant with us

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 1

- There is only one universal church, which encompasses all nations and all God's people throughout all ages

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 1

- The church is both visible and invisible

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 1

- The church is both visible and invisible
- The invisible church is the elect

# SUMMARY OF LESSON 1

- The church is both visible and invisible
- The invisible church is the elect
- The visible church is all who profess the true religion, w/ their children; mixture of elect and non-elect

End of Lesson One