

Unfamiliar Bible Words: Church (1)

Are you surprised that I suggest that the word *church* is not a familiar word, since many people see it every day? Many people use, but do not understand, this word. They say “I left my Bible at the church” or in some way call a building “the church.” This is not what Jesus meant when He said “I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18), nor what Paul meant when he referred to “the churches of Christ” (Rom. 16:16).

In the Bible, the word *church* means an assembly or gathering. The church is the people God has gathered *in Christ*, having saved them from sin through the blood of Christ (Acts 2:47; Eph. 2:13, 16). No one enters the church through wooden doors but through *the door*, Jesus (Jn. 10:7).

A habit of the church is that they assemble. This is God’s plan (Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:24-25) and also fitting when we understand what *church* means. People who claim to be “in the church” but do not “go to church” (go to the assembly) contradict their claim. Why claim to be a part of the church if you do not do what the church does?

There are other important lessons to learn about this word, available at our website. Send us your comment or question.