



Major Bible Themes

52 VITAL DOCTRINES OF THE SCRIPTURE
SIMPLIFIED AND EXPLAINED

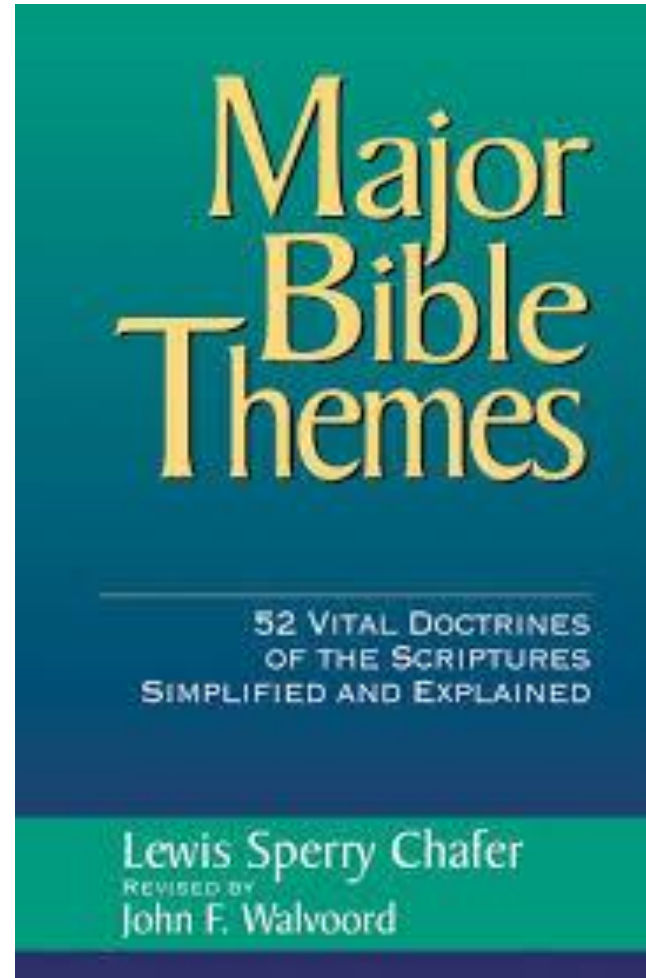
Lewis Sperry Chafer
REVISED BY
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Chapter Thirty Five

The Church: Her Members

Step # One Chapter Thirty Five The Church: Her Members

Find the Outline



Chapter Thirty Five The Church: Her Members

A. The Church as the present purpose of God

B. The Church: a New Testament Revelation

C. The Jew, Gentile, and the Church of God

D. The Church formed from both Jews and Gentiles

E. Church Membership

Understand It



MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

A. The Church as the **present purpose** of God

The church in the New Testament is revealed to be the central purpose of God in the present age. In contrast with God's purposes for individuals and nations of the Old Testament and a larger purpose for the nation of Israel, the church is revealed to be the company of believers formed of both Jew and Gentile who are called out of the world and joined together in one living union by the baptism of the Spirit.

The concept of the church falls into two major categories. The church as an organism; a living union of all true believers in Christ. The second concept is that of the local church or the organized church. This is a company of professing believers in any one locality or a group of such local assemblies.

Understand It



MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

The word "church" is a translation of a Greek word "ekklesia" and is frequently used of any assembly or congregation of people whether gathered for religious or for political purposes. The word actually means "called out ones".

MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It



B. The Church: a **New Testament Revelation**

Because the concept of a church formed of Jews and Gentiles alike - all of whom are saved and joined together by eternal life - is not found in the Old Testament, only the New Testament gives the divine revelation on this important subject.

In the plan of God it was necessary for Christ to come first, to die on the Cross, to be raised from the dead, and to ascend into heaven. With this the Holy Spirit could baptize each believer into the Body of Christ.

The normal distinction between Jew and Gentiles who are saved will return in the period of the Tribulation and also in the Millennial Kingdom.

MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It

C. The Jew, Gentile, and the Church of God

In the present age, the Bible recognizes three major divisions of the human family - the Jew, the Gentile, and the church of God.



1. The Jews, or the children of Israel, are that nation which sprang from Abraham in the line of Isaac and Jacob, and who, according to divine purpose and promise, are the chosen earthly people of God. This nation has been miraculously preserved to the present time and, according to prophecy, will yet be the dominant, glorified people of the earth in the coming kingdom age

MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It



The eternal promises of Jehovah to this people cannot be altered. These promises include a national entity a land a throne a king and a kingdom. In the faithfulness of God, their promises, which are primarily earthly in character, have been fulfilled to the present hour and will be fulfilled to all eternity; for each of these covenants is said to be everlasting in duration.

Four words describe the out-working of the divine purpose in this people - "chosen," "scattered," "gathered," "blessed."

MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It



2. **The Gentiles** are that vast unnumbered company, excluding the Israelites, who have lived on the earth from Adam until now. Apart from certain individuals, there is no record that during the period from Adam to Christ God sustained any special relation or extended any immediate promises to them. However, the prophecies of the Old Testament predict great earthly blessings to come upon the Gentiles in the yet future kingdom on the earth, and in the present age they partake alike with the Jews in the privileges of the Gospel.

MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It



3. The church of God refers, not to the membership of organized churches, but to the whole company of the redeemed who will have been saved in the present age.

They are a distinct people because:

(a) all individuals in that company being born again enter the kingdom of God and are destined to be conformed to the image of Christ

(b) they are no longer in Adam partaking of the ruin of the old creation but are in Christ partaking in the new creation of all that Christ is in His resurrection life and glory

MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It



(c) in the sight of God, their nationality is changed, for they have come upon new ground where there is neither Jew or Gentile, but Christ is all in all

(d) they are now citizens of heaven

(e) their promises, their possessions, and their position are heavenly).

By so much this heavenly people are distinguished from all other people of the earth.

MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It

D. The Church formed from **both Jews and Gentiles**

God, during the present age has placed both Jews and Gentiles upon a common ground They are now said to be "under sin," which means that they are now shut up to salvation by grace alone. The Jew will remain blinded in part until the church is called out .



Based on God's covenant He in the future will take away their sins as a nation Nevertheless , through the preaching of the Gospel both individual Jews and Gentiles are now being saved and the church is being completed. The apostle directed that the Gospel should first be preached to the Jew and his own ministry was ordered according to this program

MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It

That God is now forming one new body of Jews and Gentiles was a mystery or an unrevealed truth.



E. Church **Membership**

It is obviously true that a person may be a Christian and not be a member of a local organized church. In fact, all should be saved before they join a church; and, if saved, it is normal for the individual to choose the fellowship of the people of God in one form or another.

MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It



On the other hand, it is impossible to be saved and not be a member of the church which is Christ's own body; for a part of the divine work in salvation is the uniting of the saved one to Christ by baptism with the Holy Spirit.

On the earth, the church is seen to be a pilgrim band of witnesses.

They are not of this world even as Christ is not of this world (John 17:16), and as the Father has sent the Son into the world, so has the Son sent these witnesses into the world.

As to what they really are through the riches of grace, "it doth not yet appear".

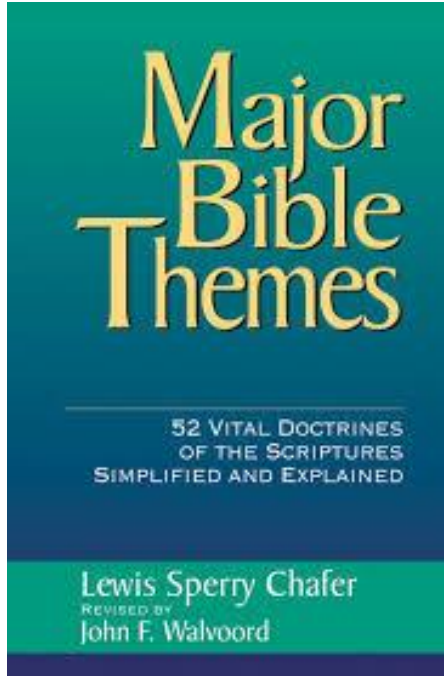
MBT Chapter Thirty Five Outline

Understand It

Being the heavenly people in contrast with Israel the earthly people, the church - glorified in the realization of her divine purpose - is seen in heaven where she appears as the bride of the Lamb, co-reigning with the King, and partaker forever in the glory of the eternal Son of God.



The next principle is to build a physical file cabinet



Mike Borland

What does the Bible
teach about the
Church: Her
Members

Chapter 35 :
The Church: Her
Members

Using Major Bible Themes
write a study about the
Church: Her Members

Chapter Thirty Five The Church: Her Members

Memorize it



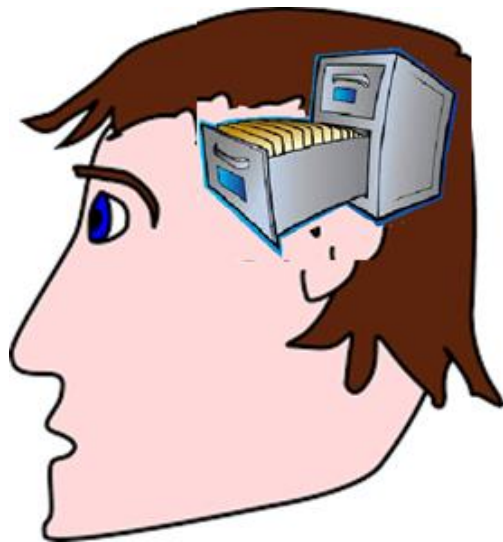
A. The Church as the present purpose of God

B. The Church: a New Testament Revelation

C. The Jew, Gentile, and the Church of God

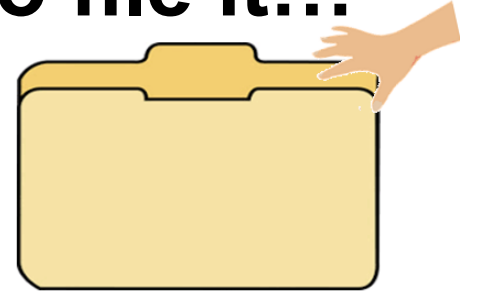
D. The Church formed from both Jews and Gentiles

E. Church Membership



Chapter Thirty Five The Church: Her Members

To file it...



Write it Down



A. The Church as the present purpose of God

B. The Church: a New Testament Revelation

C. The Jew, Gentile, and the Church of God

D. The Church formed from both Jews and Gentiles **Underline Main Words...**

E. Church Membership



Step # Two

Read the Section and look up the passages



Chapter Thirty Five The Church: Her Members

A. The Church as the **present purpose** of God

Church in one locality or a group of such local assemblies

1Co 1:2 *Unto the **church of God which is at Corinth**, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

Gal 1:2 *And all the brethren which are with me, unto the **churches of Galatia**:*

Ecclesia is used simply of a crowd that had gathered.

Act 7:38 *This is he, that was in **the church in the wilderness** with the angel which spoke to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:*

Act 19:32 *Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: **for the assembly** (Ecclesia) was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.*

B. The Church: a **New Testament Revelation**

In the New Testament believers in Christ were baptized by the Spirit (Acts 2 and Acts 10)

1Co 12:13 *For by one **Spirit are we all baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

That God is now forming one new body of Jews and Gentiles was a mystery or an unrevealed truth

*Eph 3:2-6 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he **made known unto me the mystery;** (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) **Which in other ages was not made known** unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs,** and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*

C. The Jew, Gentile, and the Church of God

The Bible recognizes three major divisions of the human family

1Co 10:32 *Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*

Israel will yet be the dominant in the coming kingdom age.

Zechariah 8:23 *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold **out of all languages of the nations**, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, **We will go with you:** for we have heard that God is with you.*

Jews have great promises including:

A national entity

Jer 31:36 *If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.*

A land

Gen 13:15 *For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*

A throne

2Sa 7:13 *He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.*

A king

Jer 33:20-21 *Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers.*

A kingdom

2Sa 7:16 *And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.*

The special position of Israel

Rom 9:4-5 *Who are Israelites; to whom pertained the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*

Members of the Church are a distinct people because:

(a) all individuals in that company being born again enter the kingdom of God

Joh 3:5 *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

(b) destined to be conformed to the image of Christ

Rom 8:29 *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

(c) they are no longer in Adam partaking of the ruin of the old creation

2Co 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

(d) Blessed in the Heavens

Eph 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

(e) There is neither Jew or Gentile, but Christ is all in all

Col 3:11 *Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

(f) Citizens of heaven

Php 3:20 *For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

(g) position is heavenly

Col 3:1 *Since ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

D. The Church formed from **both Jews and Gentiles**
Jews and Gentiles upon a common ground

Rom 3:9 *What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are **all under sin**;*

The Jew will remain blinded in part until the church is called out

Rom 11:25-26 *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that **blindness in part is happened to Israel**, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so **all Israel shall be saved**: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:*

Gospel should first be preached to the Jew

Rom 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

Act 28:17 *And it came to pass, that after three days **Paul called the chief of the Jews together:** and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.*

Act 28:25-26 *And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:*

Act 28:28 *Be it known therefore unto you, that the **salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles**, and that they will hear it.*

E. Church Membership

Uniting of the saved one to Christ by baptism with the Holy Spirit

1Co 12:13 *For by one Spirit are we all **baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

They are not of this world even as Christ is not of this world

Joh 17:16 *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

As to what they really are through the riches of grace, "it doth not yet appear"

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Step # Three

Memorize one Passage per section

Learn general and specific later.

- Highlight key words
- Understand difficult words and the meaning



Read out loud 5 times what you are trying to memorize



Write the verse on paper or put the verse into you phone



Step # Four Take the Test at the end of the chapter

Chapter Thirty Five The Church: Her Members

1. How does the purpose of God for the church contrast with the purposes of God for individuals and nations in the Old Testament?

The church in the New Testament is revealed to be the central purpose of God in the present age. In contrast with God's purposes for individuals and nations of the Old Testament and a larger purpose for the nation of Israel, the church is revealed to be the company of believers formed of both Jew and Gentile who are called out of the world and joined together in one living union by the baptism of the Spirit.

2. What are the two major categories of the concept of the church

Local body and the universal church

3. What is the original meaning of the word "church"?

Called out assembly

4. How is the word "church" used in the Old Testament, and how does this differ from its use in regard to the church which is the body of Christ'?

This word is found frequently in the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Old Testament, to denote various assemblies in the Old Testament. Church in the NT refers to the body of Christ and a specific local assembly

5. What was necessary in the plan of God before the advent of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost?

Christ had to go to the Cross, suffer, die and resurrect for the Spirit to come

6. How does the baptism of the Holy Spirit relate to the church'?

It makes us members of the Body of Christ

7. Name the three major divisions of the human family in the present age, and define each

1. The Jews, or the children of Israel, are that nation which sprang from Abraham in the line of Isaac and Jacob, and who, according to divine purpose and promise, are the chosen earthly people of God

2. The Gentiles are that vast unnumbered company, excluding the Israelites, who have lived on the earth from Adam until now.

3. The church of God refers, not to the membership of organized churches, but to the whole company of the redeemed who will have been saved in the present age.

8. What are some of the eternal promises which God has given to Israel?

A national entity

A land

A throne

A king

A kingdom

9. What promises has God given the Gentiles?

(a) all individuals in that company being born again enter the kingdom of God

(b) destined to be conformed to the image of Christ

(c) they are no longer in Adam partaking of the ruin of the old creation

(d) Blessed in the Heavens

(e) There is neither Jew or Gentile, but Christ is all in all

(f) Citizens of heaven

(g) position is heavenly

10. In what sense is the church a distinct company of people?

They are a distinct people because of the blessings listed above

11. On what common ground has God placed Jew and Gentile in the present age'?

All are under sin

12. What has happened to Israel's covenants during the present age?

The eternal promises of Jehovah to this people cannot be altered. In the faithfulness of God, their promises, which are primarily earthly in character, have been fulfilled to the present hour and will be fulfilled to all eternity; for each of these covenants is said to be everlasting in duration.

13. How is Israel characterized according to Romans 11:25 during the present age?

Set aside

14. What will happen to Israel after the rapture of the church?

In the tribulation she will be judged and brought to a saving knowledge of Christ as a nation. Individual Jews will be Saved. Saved Israel will enter the Millennium

15. Name and define the two major revelations given to the Apostle Paul

As has been suggested, two revelations were given to the Apostle Paul: one, of the gospel of the grace of God (Salvation only comes through faith) - probably while in Arabia at the beginning of his ministry (Gal. 1:11-12); and the other, of the church which is the body of Christ (which was a mystery that Jew and Gentile would be in one body - probably while in prison (Eph. 3:3-6).

16. How does the salvation of an individual relate to his being a member of a church?

It is obviously true that a person may be a Christian and not be a member of a local organized church. In fact, all should be saved before they join a church; and, if saved, it is normal for the individual to choose the fellowship of the people of God in one form or another.

17. Is it possible to be saved and not a member of the church as the body of Christ'?

On the other hand, it is impossible to be saved and not be a member of the church which is Christ's own body; for a part of the divine work in salvation is the uniting of the saved one to Christ by baptism with the Holy Spirit.

18. What is the destiny of the church after the present age?

Being the heavenly people in contrast with Israel the earthly people, the church - glorified in the realization of her divine purpose - is seen in heaven where she appears as the bride of the Lamb, co-reigning with the King, and partaker forever in the glory of the eternal Son of God.