

# THE CHURCH UNDER GRACE





Much confusion exists today about the biblical word “church.”



What we see here is that there was a “church,” in the past in the wilderness which had laws and instruction specifically for them, a place to worship at the tabernacle (v. 44), and had Moses as their leader. This Church was Israel.



When we read about this “church,” the nation Israel, in the Old Testament, it does not refer to us. This is not the church of this dispensation. That was a different church, a different group of people, with a different rule of life (the Law).



Acts 19:32 says this, “Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly [Gr. Ekklesia] was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.”



Israel was a Church, a called-out group. They were called out of Egypt, they were called out of the world to be a special people unto God.

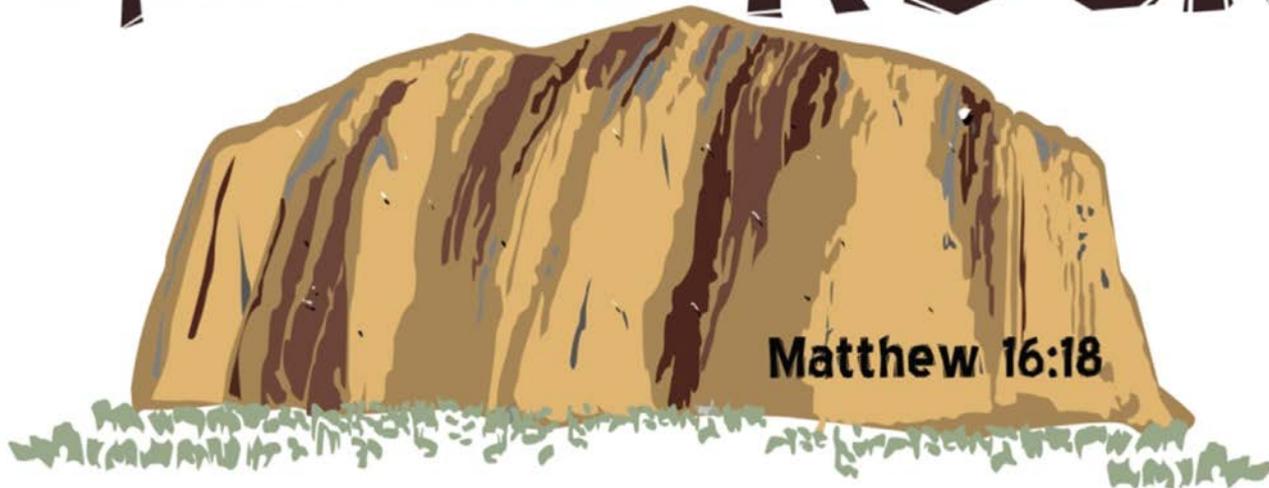


We, today, are a called-out, special group of people unto God, not as a special, chosen nation as Israel was, but instead we're called out to be a part of the Body of Christ.



So we too, are a church, but we are not Israel. Israel was a church but they weren't the Body of Christ. These must be kept separate.

Upon This **ROCK**



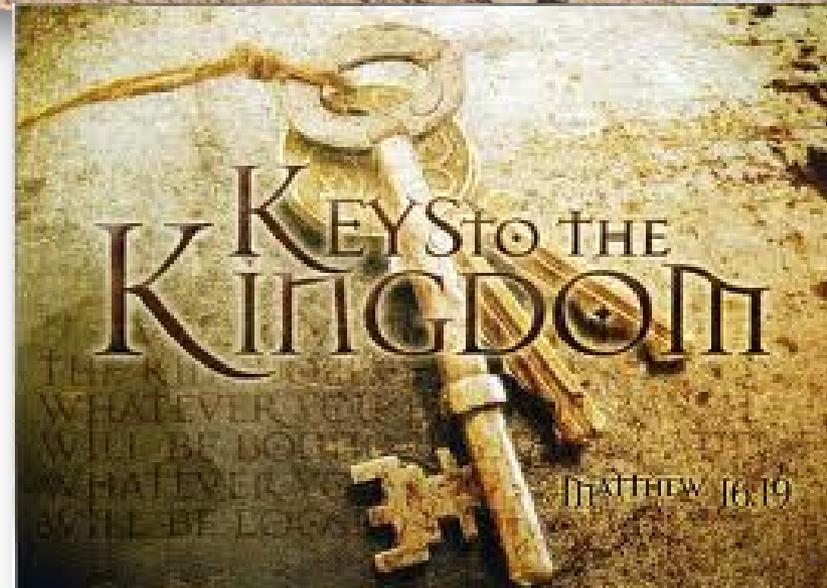
**I Will Build My Church**

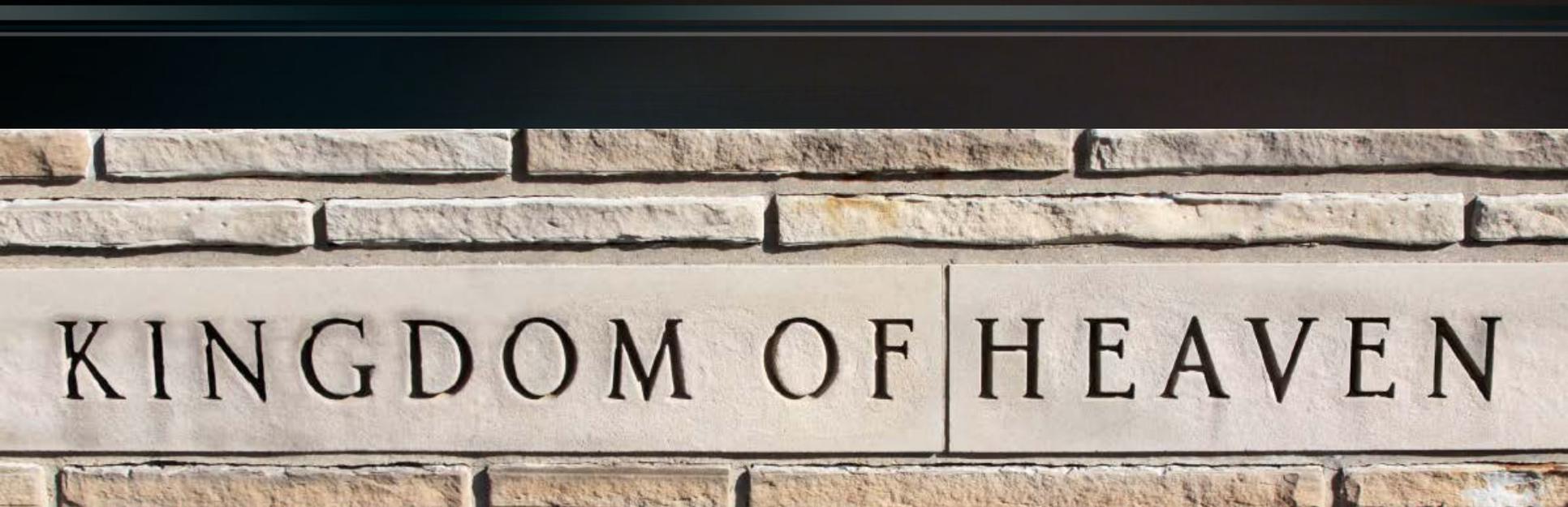
**We should immediately ask: “What church?”**

# KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

**“And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.”**

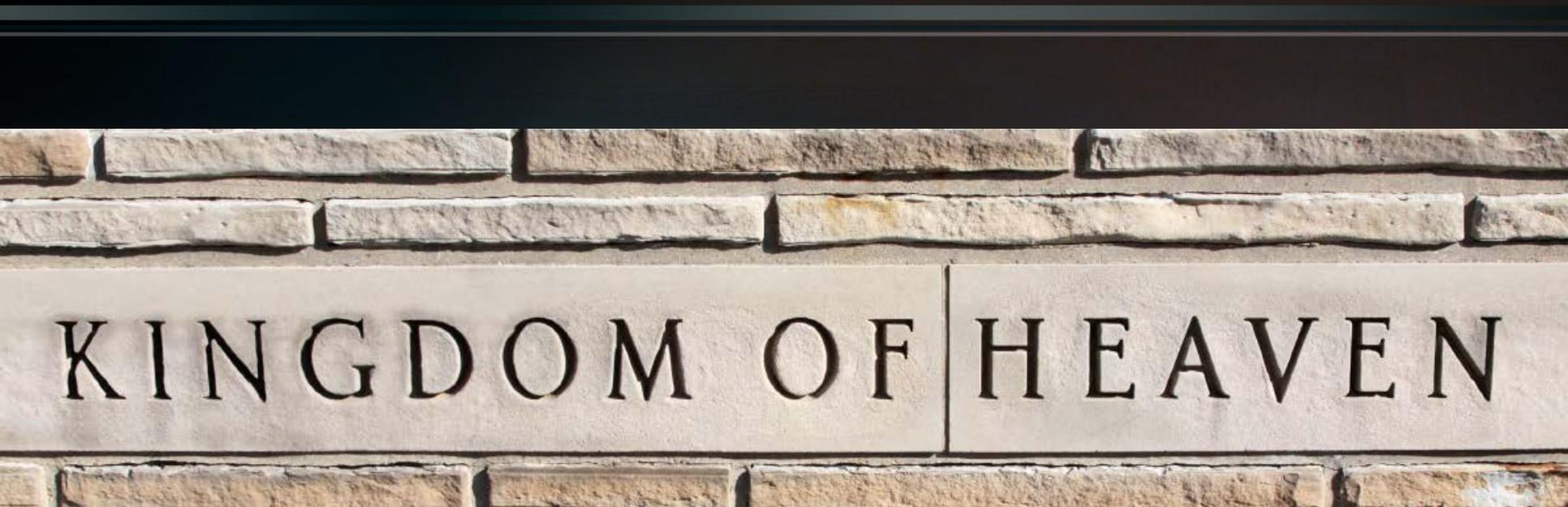
The Kingdom of Heaven does not refer to Heaven itself, but to the Kingdom that will be on earth: a kingdom of heaven on earth, a heavenly government here on earth with Christ ruling as King. So the church he is talking about here is the





KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

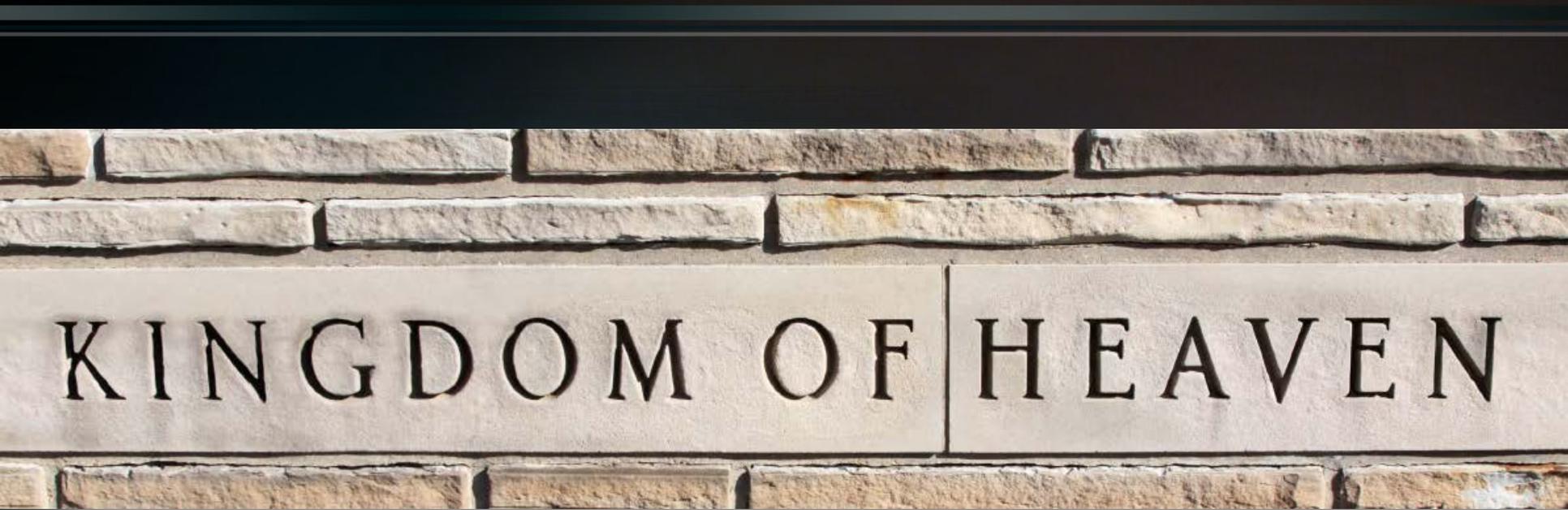
Throughout the Gospel accounts, the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples went everywhere “preaching the gospel of *the Kingdom*” promising that “the *Kingdom of heaven* is at hand” (Matt. 4:17; 10:7).

A close-up photograph of a stone wall. The words "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" are carved in a serif font into two large, light-colored rectangular stones. The wall is composed of various shades of tan and grey stones with visible mortar lines.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

**“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

By believing that the Lord Jesus Christ was Israel’s promised Messiah-King those who chose to believe this message were being called out as the Church at that time. And that Church was to go into the Kingdom.

A close-up photograph of a stone wall. The words "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" are carved in a serif font into a horizontal band of light-colored stone. The wall is composed of several layers of rectangular stone blocks with visible mortar joints. The lighting is bright, casting soft shadows that emphasize the texture of the stone.

# KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

“Seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock;  
for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms”  
(Luke 12:31-33).



“But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, **tell it unto the church**: but if he neglect to hear **the church**, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican” (Matt. 18:16,17).



At Pentecost **“there were added...about three thousand souls”** and **“the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved”** (Acts 2:41,47).

Pentecost was not the beginning of a Church, there was already a Church in existence on the Day of Pentecost! It was the Kingdom Church, the “little flock,” and at Pentecost that Church was added unto, by 3000.



Those at Pentecost did what the Lord told the “little flock” Church to do, to sell all that they had.

Acts 2:45 says after they believed in Christ, repented, and were water baptized, they **“sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.”**



**Matt. 6:14,15:** “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”



**Matt. 6:31-34:** “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?...for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.



**Matt. 19:29:** “And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”

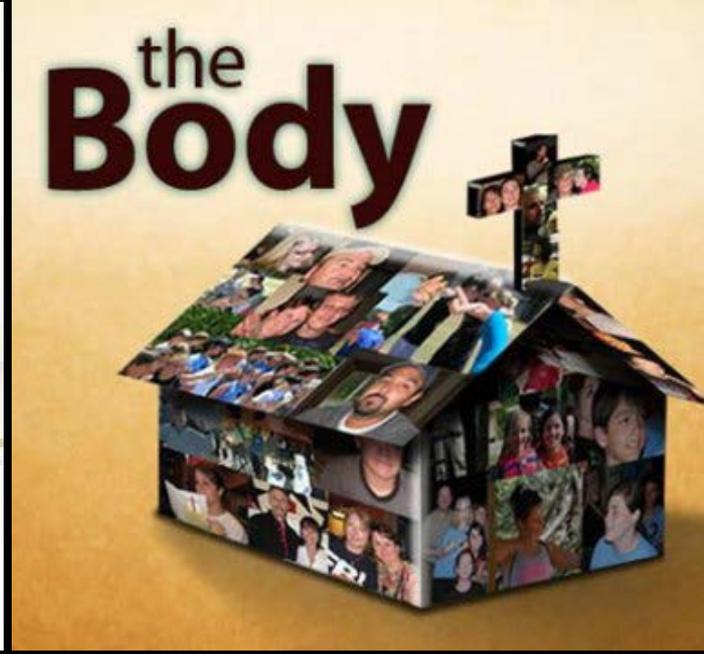
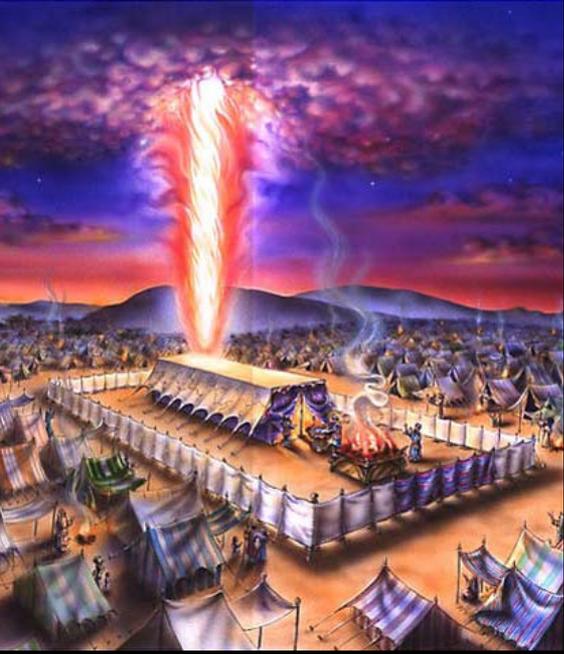
**Matt. 13:11:** “He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.”

# GRACE

**Eph. 4:32** “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. “

**1 Tim. 5:8** “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

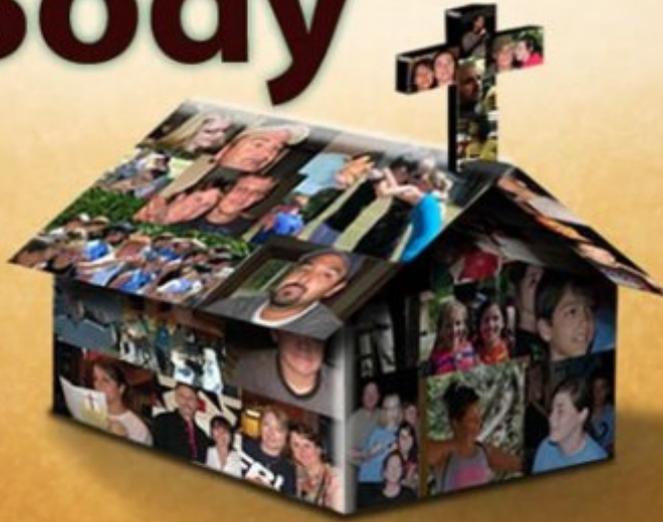
**Col. 2:2** “That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God.”



We must carefully distinguish between the Churches mentioned in the Bible. In the Old Testament you find a Church, “a church in the wilderness,” the nation Israel, which is different from the Church of today.

In the Gospels you find a Church, a Kingdom Church, which is different from the Church today. And then in Paul’s epistles you find a Church, a Church which **is** for today.

# the Body



The term and title “Body of Christ” is not mentioned anywhere in the Scriptures until we come to the writings of Paul.

No other writer of Scripture mentions it, only Paul speaks of the Church, the Body of Christ, and it is the great subject of his epistles.

**Eph. 2:15,16:** “For to make in Himself of twain **one new man**, so making peace; And that He might reconcile both unto God in one Body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.”

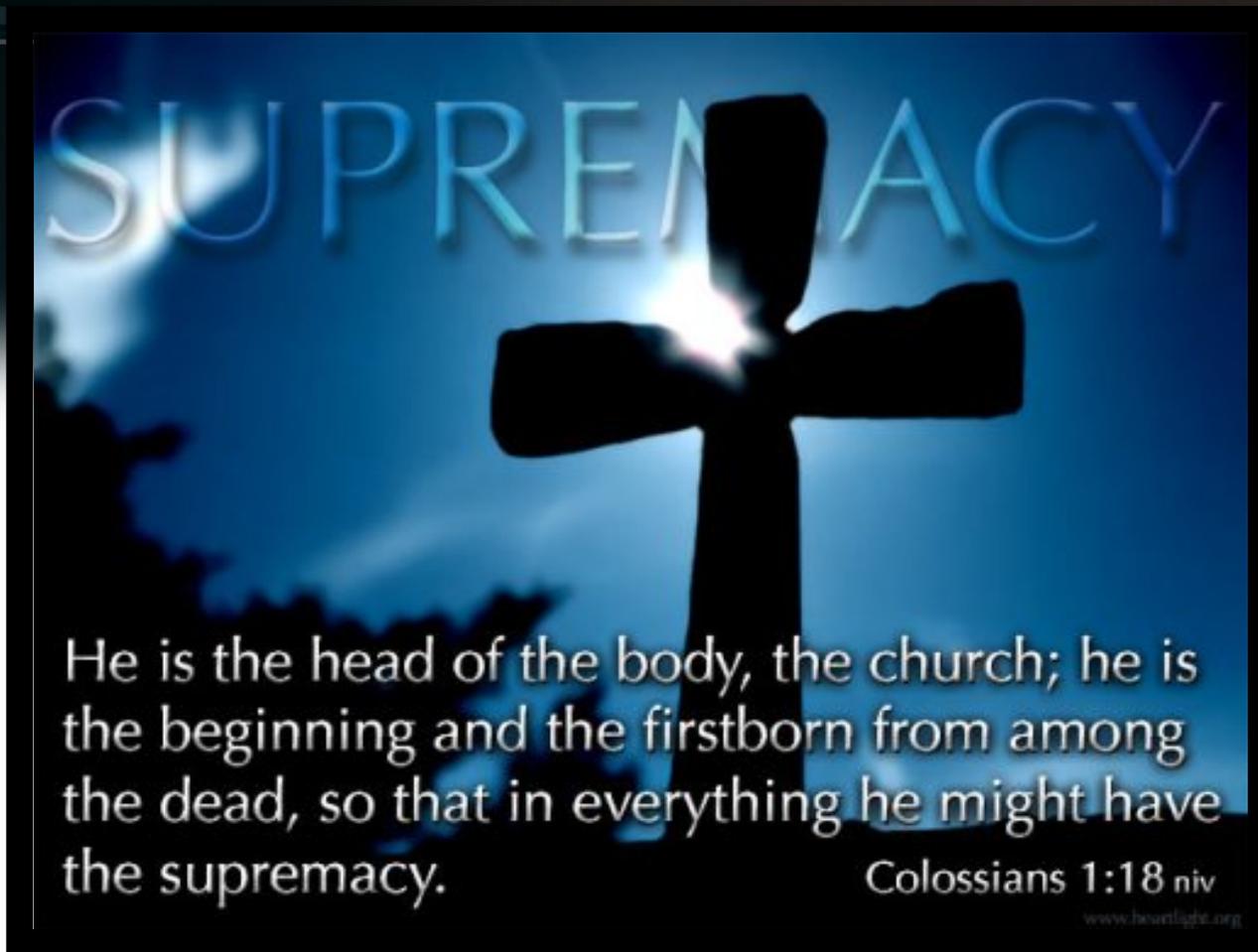


The “one new man” is made of up of *new* men and new women, new boys and new girls, who have trusted the gospel of grace, who are *new* creations in Christ, who are *one* in Him, and are members of the “*one* Body,” reconciled to God by the Cross.





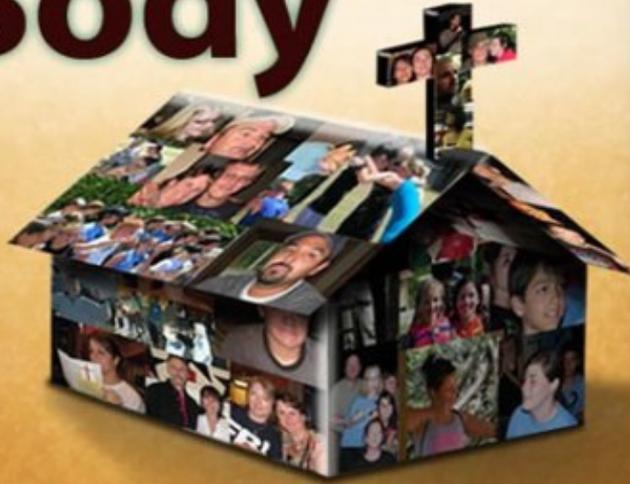
This dispensation of grace fulfils the Word of God;  
it completed the divine revelation. To Paul was given the revelation which makes full or completes God's Word; this revelation gives us the full picture of God's plans and purposes for mankind



Eph. 1:22,23: “And hath put all things under [Christ’s] feet, and gave Him to be the **Head** over all things to the Church, which is His Body.”

Col. 1:18: “And [Christ] is the **Head** of the Body, the Church.”

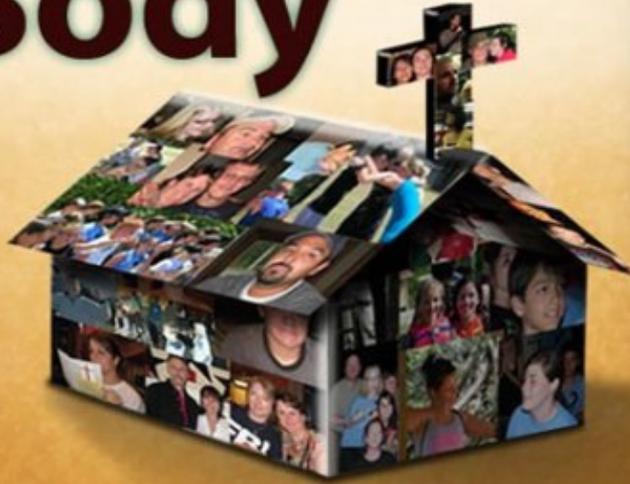
the  
**Body**



**GRACE**

Within this dispensation of grace, only believers from this present dispensation are made a part of the Church, the Body of Christ.

the  
**Body**

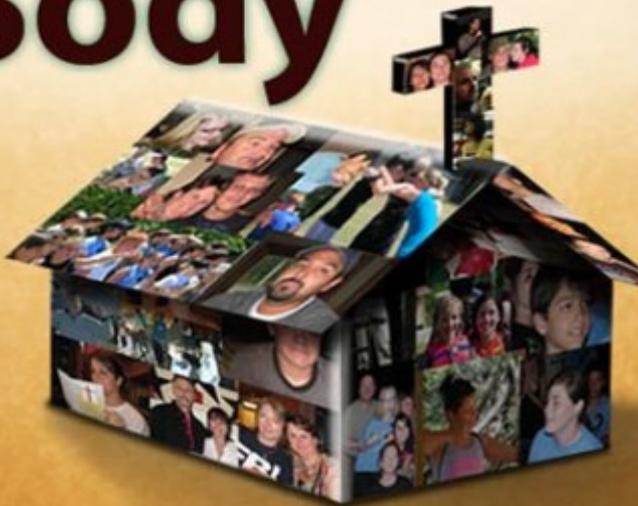


**GRACE**

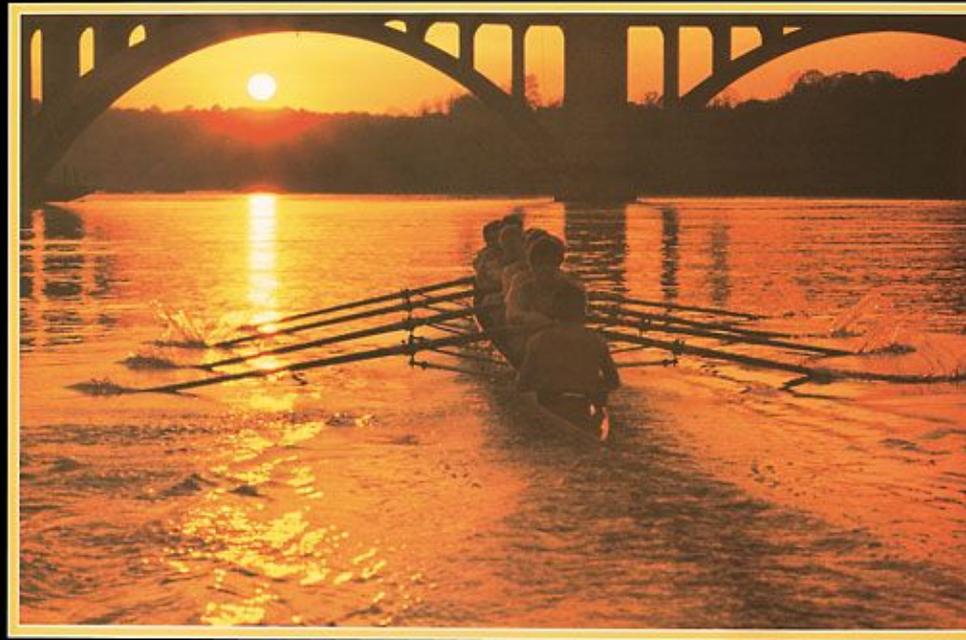
We find through Paul how we become members of the Church, the Body of Christ, and it is by grace through faith alone in Christ alone (Eph. 2:8,9).

It is by the gospel of the grace of God that we are saved and are made members of the Body of Christ, simply by believing that Christ died for our sins, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:3,4).

# the Body



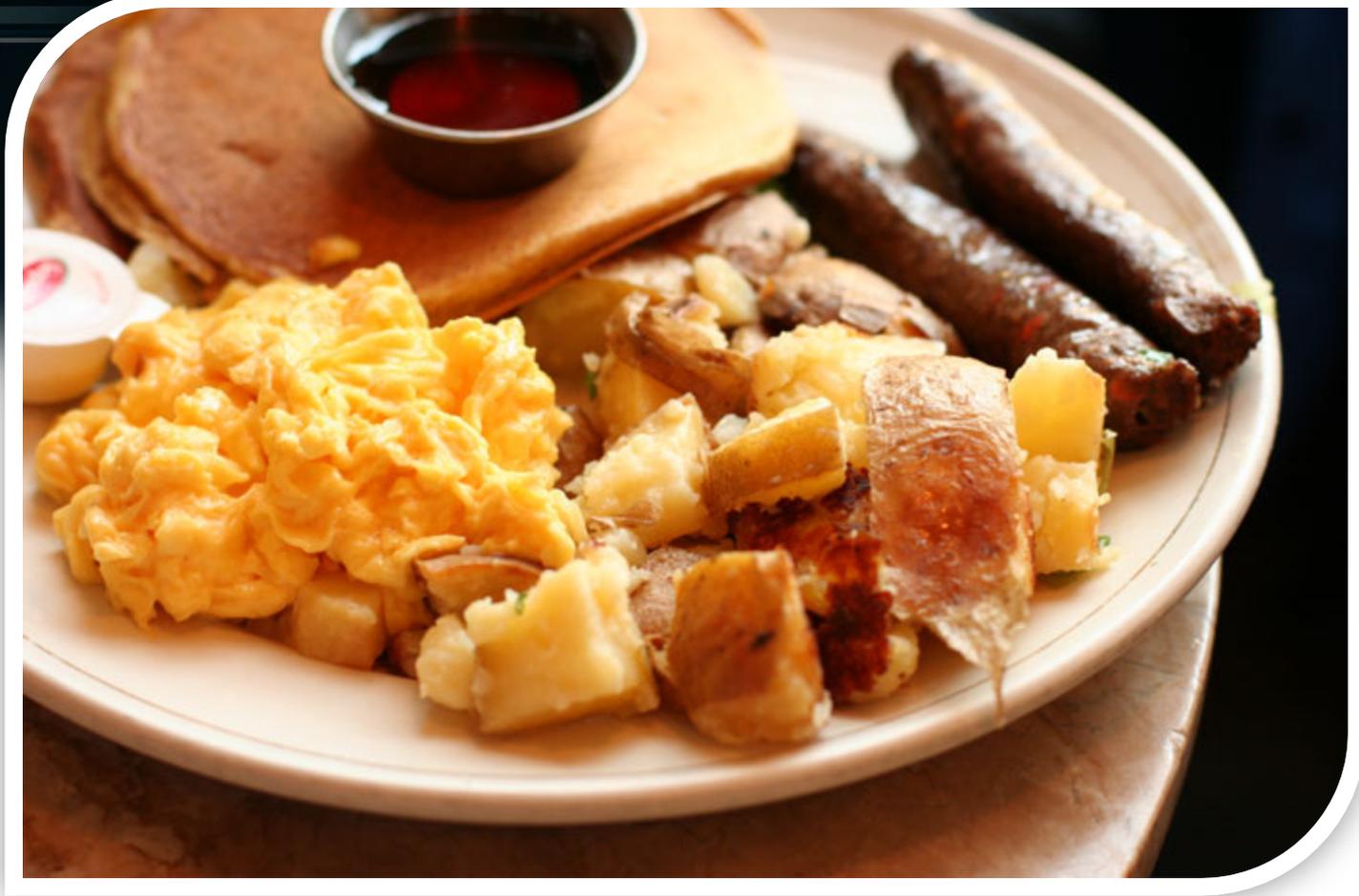
Romans through Philemon is “our mail”  
for the Church today.



## WORKING TOGETHER

*Coming Together Is A Beginning, Keeping Together  
Is Progress, Working Together Is Success.*

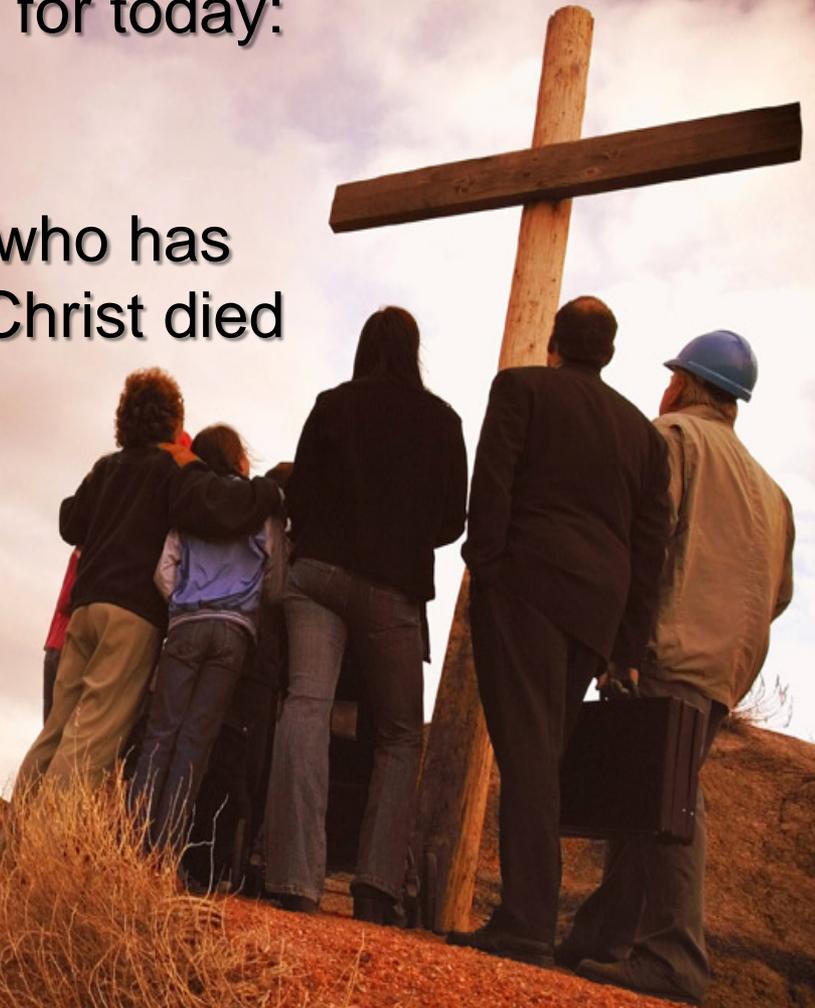
God has designed the Body of Christ to function like a healthy human body, each member fulfilling its specific role, where each part is needed, working together in harmony with the other members for the spiritual health and oneness of the Body.



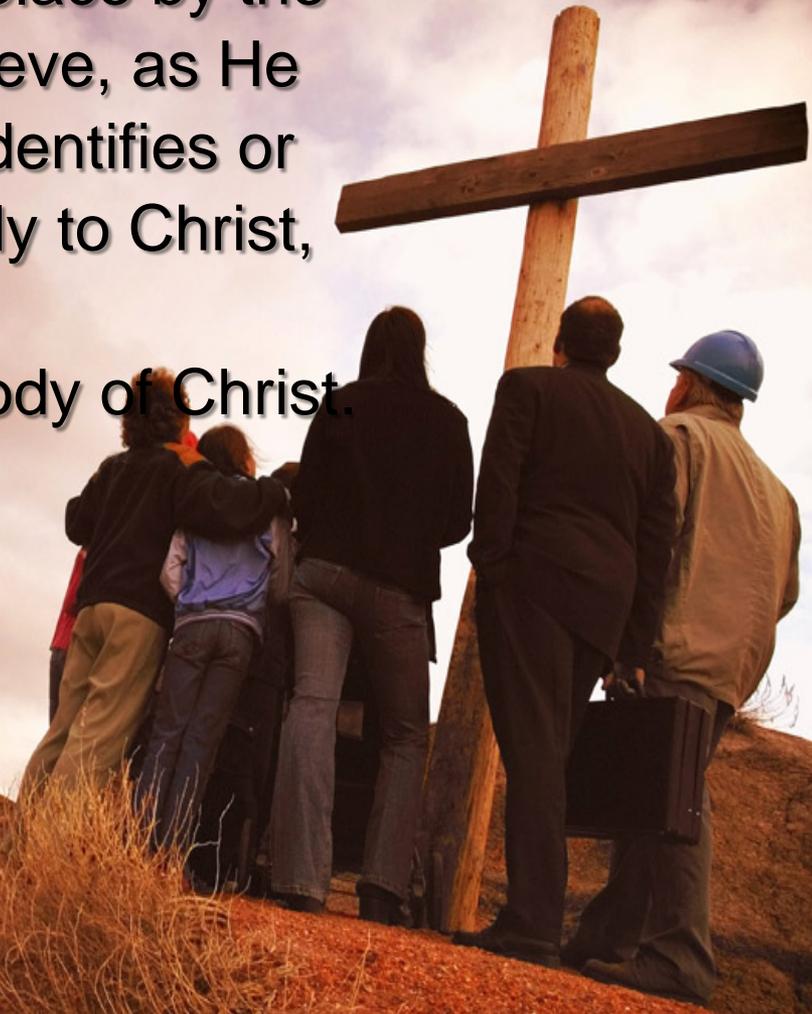
“In order to be the kind of Christian that God wants you to be, you need the dynamic fellowship, dynamic motivation, and dynamic inspiration of the people of God. And not only do you need it, you should be willing to come, to serve, and to give to someone else. Because it’s not just about you.” Tony Evans

There are many Christian organizations, denominations, and groups of every sort, but there is only one true Church for today: **the Body of Christ.**

The Body is made up of anyone who has placed their faith in the fact that Christ died for our sins, and rose again.



When a person today trusts the gospel of grace, a distinct baptism takes place by the Holy Spirit the moment we believe, as He spiritually baptizes believers, identifies or joins us completely and eternally to Christ, and places us into the Church, the Body of Christ.





# OUR HOPE

The Body of Christ has its own unique hope and calling which is **heaven** and the **Blessed Hope** of Christ's Coming for the Body before the Tribulation period begins.

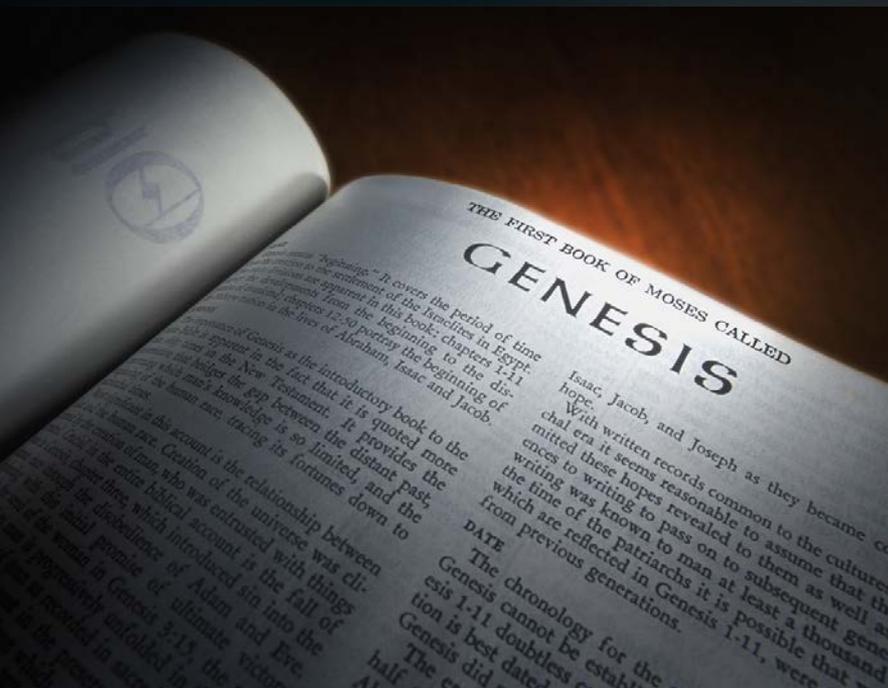
This is unique from the nation Israel and the Kingdom Church, whose hope and calling is the kingdom on earth and Christ's Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation.



**Barriers which separate men in this world are not present in Christ and differences among men in this world have no meaning in Him. Christ dwells in all who believe, and we're all one in Christ, and we're all one Body of Christ.**

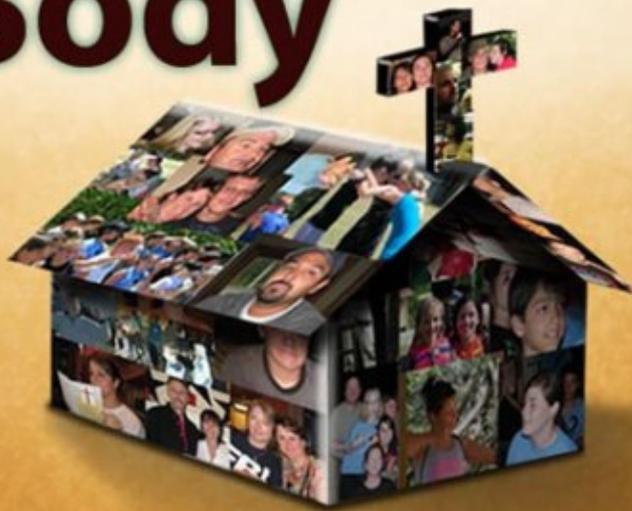


**Galatians 3:28 says, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”**



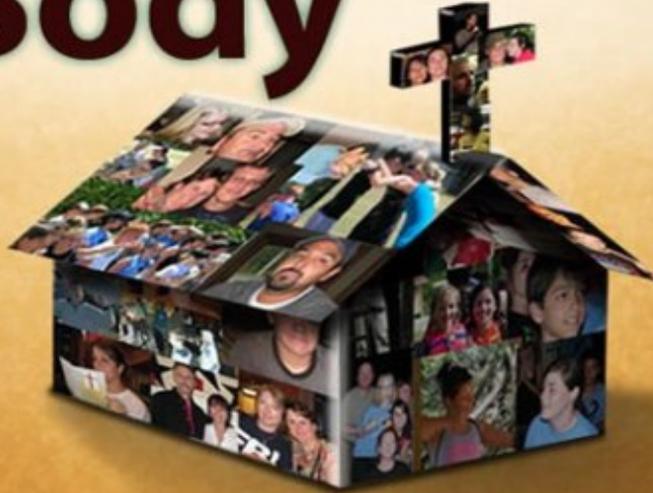
Nowhere in the Old Testament is there any prediction of the formation of a joint Body of Jewish and Gentile believers with a heavenly hope and calling, nowhere.

# the Body



In this dispensation of the grace of God, God is saving souls out of every nation, who simply place their faith in Christ alone and in His finished work. And by the Holy Spirit, they're spiritually baptized, they are joined *together* into the Church, the Body of Christ, making us one with Christ *and* one with each other.

# the Body



The Church, under grace, is **the Body of Christ**.

And the Body is to live by grace, and operate with the mind of our living Head, and be His hands and feet in taking His good news to the world and in serving others, so others might see Christ's life in our lives.