

In other words, the word church, then, is strange that ~~upon~~ Peter, upon the rock upon whom the church is to be built, according some interpretations ~~it~~, in any event the ~~one~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ whom Christ first spoke about the church, Peter in his epistle has as much to say about the church as any writer, but he never uses the word ecclesia once in his epistles, in either First or Second Peter. He doesn't use this particular word. Paul uses it a good bit, it is used in Acts, but almost everywhere in Acts it refers to ~~the~~ a particular church, the church in Jerusalem, the churches in Jerusalem, and ~~elsewhere~~ elsewhere. In the plural it says in verse 9:31, the church at Antioch, the church at Caesarea, the church at Ephesus, it is used in Acts usually of a particular church.

Acts 14:23 speaks of every church. In every church. It is never used in John's Gospel or in First or Second John, but it is used in Third John. But in the book of Ephesians, particularly, and in Colossians, we find it used in a sense which clearly refers to the church which is His body, which is not the church of Jerusalem or the church of Antioch or the church of Caesarea, but which is the universal church.

Now it would be interesting to take an hour or two to ~~go~~ go through all of these passages, if we had fifty hours in stead of fifteen we certainly ought to do it. We may look at a good many of them, next week in Church govt. But for the present I don't think we need to linger over this, that it is clearly taught in Scripture that there is something which Christ calls my ecclesia, which is spoken of as the body of Christ, which is an organism which includes all Christians. It includes all who are united with Christ, includes only those who are united with Christ, it ~~it~~ does not include any hypocrites, it does not include any people who think they have believed on Him but have not really, it includes only those but all of those who have believed in Christ. It includes them in every nation, it includes them ~~in~~ in every tongue. Anyone who is ever saved by the Lord Jesus Christ is a member of this ecclesia in this sense.

(question) Well, now, I fear that we have to stop. Let me pose this question to you. The holy catholic church, the universal church, is there such