

But the ~~z~~ term is used quite generally in Acts for a visible church. That is for a group of people that met together and had a visible existence as an organization. ~~Therexix~~ It is pretty hard to....(6)

But when we get on into the first of the epistles, we find that the apostles are dealing with situations in a particular group. I don't recall as the word church occurs at all in Romans or not, does it? Yes, I guess it does, but I don't notice a reference here. But in I Cor. it occurs a great deal, but it is dealing mostly with specific situations in the ~~ex~~ Corinthian church. And so the problem is whether he is speaking of the church as the Christians in ~~exixix~~ Corinth or as a universal group is rather hard to answer from the book of Corinthians.

(question) Thessalonians as being one of ~~the earliest~~ books written. You mean that there are quite a few uses of the term. I don't have them noted right here, so I wonder if they perhaps didn't throw much light on this particular point. Do you recall one of them, and we will glance at it quickly. ~~ixThessix~~ II Thess. ~~xk~~ 1 I just noticed starts "under the church of the Thessalonians". That is not the universal church, then, the church of the Thessalonians. Chapter 1:8, from use, I don't see the word church. 2:14. You brethren became the followers of the churches of God, which in Judea are in Christ Jesus. Well there, very evidently, it is not the church universal. It is used of smaller groups. There is no question of ~~that~~ that. And it would seem that these groups are visible groups. That is, it would seem that he is speaking of groups which people could say who they were. Rather than having a specific reference to the fact of there being true Christians, all over the true Christians. But I was simply meaning to note that in the first writings here we don't have this thought of the church universal brought out so clearly as it is brought out in the very first mention of it in Matthew. But when we get to Ephesians and Colossians and one instance in Hebrews, we have it quite clearly brought out. Look at Hebrews, for instance. Hebrews 12:23. In Hebrews 12:23 we ~~z~~ read that you are come to Mount Zion ~~z~~ to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general ~~assembly~~