

I have often heard it said, Oh a church is not a building. The church is not a pile of wood and stone. That's not what a church is. "Well now that statement is correct and also quite incorrect. Because the English word "church" comes from the Greek *chorea* ? which was the designation for a place of meeting. Our English word church is ~~the~~ derived from a word which means a place ~~built~~ built of stone or of wood where the church ~~met~~ met. But of course that is not what matters to the Christian. What matters is not what is our English word, but what is the Greek word which this word attempts to represent. And the Greek word is altogether different. The Gk. word *ecclesia* ~~is~~ better represented in French than in English because it is taken right over into French -- *egglis* -- while we took over ~~another~~ another Gk. word into English which represents a building. But we use it to represent the word *ecclesia*. And this word was used of the citizens of a Greek town. The people ~~whom~~ whom the herald would call out from their homes to come to the meeting to decide the important things about the town. They were the *ecclesia*, the gathering, the assembly of the town. So that word *ecclesia* is used in the NT & translated church. And what is a church in the NT sense? Well the first case where we find the word is in Mat. 16 where Jesus said, Upon this rock I will build my church. What did He mean by that? Did he mean some particular church in some particular town? Did He mean a particular church in Jerusalem? I think it is quite obvious that when He said, Upon this rock I will build my church, not I will build my churches, He was using the term as an indication of one organism. One unified thing which would be called His Church.

I was down in Washington in 1951 as one of about 100 different people who were invited by the Government to come to a conference on the Chaplaincy. About 40 or 45% of these present --- I guess about 40% were Roman Catholic, maybe 5% Jews, and the rest from various Protestant groups. At one time I was speaking with one of the Roman Catholics who was there -- a head of a school somewhere, a Roman Catholic school, and he said We believe ours ~~is~~ is the true church. Which do you think is the true church? Do you think the Bible Presbyterian church is the true church? Well I don't ~~think~~ think the true church is any particular denomination. When Jesus said, I will build my church, He