

## **Invisible, Yet Visible**

✘ **INVISIBLE:** *The church, in its true spiritual nature as the fellowship of all New Testament Believers, is invisible.*



↳ *It is spiritual in nature.*

↳ *The visible Church, like the local church, should be a smaller version of the invisible (or universal) Church.* <sup>7</sup>

↳ *Definition: "The invisible church is the church **as God sees it.**"* <sup>8</sup>

✘ **VISIBLE:** *"The visible church includes all who profess faith in Christ in this New Testament Period and give evidence of that faith in their lives."* <sup>9</sup>

↳ *Definition: "The visible church is the church **as Christians on earth see it.**"* <sup>9</sup>

↳ *An Important Distinguishment: The Church Invisible – composed of real Christians from all denominations; The Church Visible – consisting of all who profess to be Christians.* <sup>10</sup>

↳ *2 Timothy 2:19 ~ "The Lord knows those who are His."*

↳ *Avoiding the Extremes: A "Both-And" Approach.* <sup>11</sup>

## **Have You Found Your Place Within The Church of Jesus Christ?**

<sup>1</sup> Grudem, W. (2020). [\*Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine\*](#) (Second Edition, p. 1047). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.

<sup>2</sup> Pearlman, Myer, *Knowing The Doctrines of the Bible* (Springfield, MI: Gospel Publishing House, 1937, 1981), 345-346.

<sup>3</sup> Dusing, Michael L., and others, eds, *Systematic Theology* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1994), 533-534.

<sup>4</sup> Thiessen, Henry C., Revised by Vernon D. Doerksen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1949 – Revised in 1979, Reprinted February 1989), 311.

<sup>5</sup> Thiessen, Henry C., 312.

<sup>6</sup> Dusing, Michael L., 539.

<sup>7</sup> Dusing, Michael L., 539-540.

<sup>8</sup> Grudem, W. (2020). (Second Edition, p. 1049).

<sup>9</sup> Pearlman, Myer, 350-351.

<sup>10</sup> Grudem, W. (2020). (Second Edition, p. 1050).

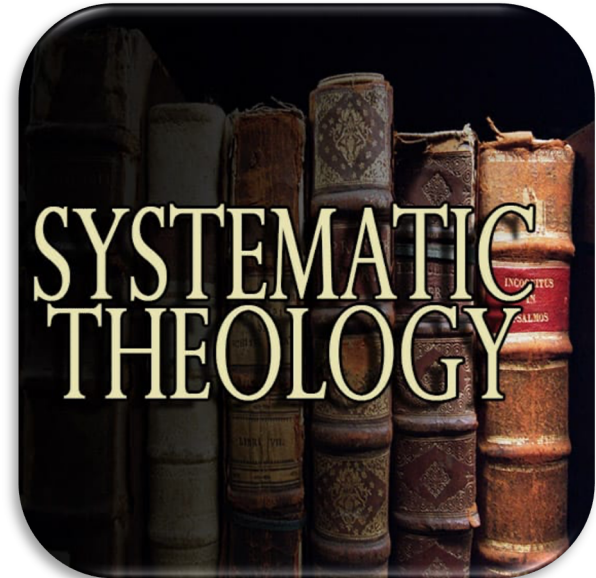
<sup>11</sup> Dusing, Michael L., 540.

# THE JOURNEY

Assembly of God

## ***MESSAGE GUIDE***

***Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer  
Sunday: January 28, 2024***



# Message Talk Sheet

Date: January 28, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

SERIES: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY  
FOR DAILY LIVING

*"A Practical Look at the Study of God &  
Elements of Biblical & Spiritual Truth"*

Today's Message:

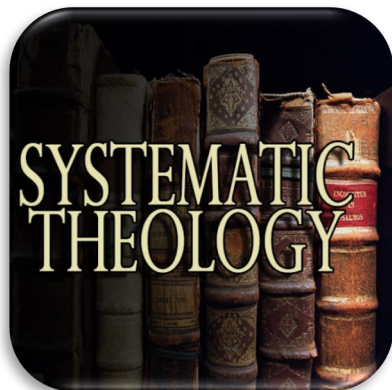
**ECCLESIOLOGY (Part 3)**

The Doctrine of the New Testament Church:

The Nature of the Church

[Part A – "It's Character: Universal, Yet Local; Invisible, Yet Visible"]

Scriptures: Galatians 3:26-29; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 12:13;  
Acts 11:26; 2 Timothy 2:19



## ***ECCLESIOLOGY ~ "The Doctrine of the New Testament Church"***

### **God's Church**

✘ The Church is the means by which God is reaching the lost with the Gospel of His love and salvation!



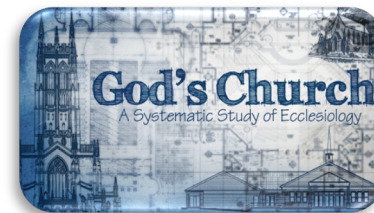
### **Meditation**

### **Scripture**

✘ Galatians 3:25-29 ~ <sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



## **The Character of the NT Church**



✘ Definitions: <sup>1</sup>

- ↳ View #1 ~ "The church is the community of all true believers for all time."
- ↳ View #2 ~ "The church is the community of all true believers since Pentecost."

✘ Biblical Words & Terms: <sup>2</sup>

- ↳ **ekklesia** ~ "An Assembly of Called-out Ones"
- ↳ **Brethren** ~ "A Spiritual Fellowship" (1 John 3:16; Galatians 3:28)
- ↳ **Believers** ~ "The Faithful Ones" (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)
- ↳ **Saints** ~ "Consecrated or Holy Ones" (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- ↳ **Elect** ~ "The Chosen or Called" (Romans 8:28-29)
- ↳ **Disciples** ~ "Learners or Pupils" (John 8:31) <sup>3</sup>
- ↳ **Christians** ~ "Followers of Christ" (Matthew 4:19; Acts 11:26)
- ↳ **Those of the Way** ~ "A Way of Life" (Acts 9:2)

### **Universal, Yet Local**

✘ **UNIVERSAL:** "In the universal sense the church consists of all those who, in this age, have been born of the Spirit of God and have by that same Spirit been baptized into the body of Christ." <sup>4</sup>

- ↳ 1 Corinthians 12:13 / 1 Peter 1:3; 22-23
- ↳ God has given birth to a people that transcend ethnicity, geographical borders, and even generations & centuries of time!

✘ **LOCAL:** "In the local sense the word 'church' is used of a group of professed believers in any one locality." <sup>5</sup>

- ↳ Jerusalem (Acts 8:1; 11:22), Ephesus (Acts 20:17), etc.
- ↳ "Ideally the local church should be **a small replica** of the Church universal." <sup>6</sup>

