

Intro to Theology

Assemblies of God; Indiana School of Ministry

Level 1 Class

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6 Ecclesiology

Definition of the Church

Ekklesia:

Concerning the third point, it is known that the Church is catholic, that is, universal, first with respect to place, because it is throughout the entire world... Secondly, the Church is universal with respect to the condition of people, because no one is rejected... Thirdly, it is universal with respect to time, because the Church began from the time of Abel and will last to the end of the world.

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

Who is part of it?

Importance of the Church

Jesus was God's only plan to redeem creation. The Church is his only plan to proclaim and display that plan.

Objectives of the Church

World evangelization.

All evangelizing efforts must remain rooted in the teaching and preaching of the inspired Word.

Luther quote: McAlister p. 504

Worship God.

Serve the least.

Eph 3:16-19

16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

7 Eschatology

Apocalyptic genre: Desiring the Kingdom

Blessed Hope

Romans 8:23(24); 1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thess 4:16-17, Titus 2:13:

1 Thess 4:17

17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so (not *there*) we will always be with the Lord.

“Humans are not made for ‘heaven,’ but for the new heavens and the new earth.”

NT Wright