

How the Bible Describes the People of God and the Church

By Bob Young

Introduction

In the OT, the people of God are developed from the nation of Israel. In the NT, the people of God are also known as the church.

Consider these NT descriptions of the church

- A place God puts those who become Christians and are saved, Ac 2:47
- A place God puts those who are saved, Eph 5:23
- The house of God, 1 Tim. 3:14-15
- A home/family in which we can grow in love and unity, Eph. 2:19
- A fellowship where we give and receive, 2 Cor 1:3-5, 1 Cor 12:12-16, 25-26 (ck vv. 4-7)
- A point of light the world can see, Mt. 5:14-16; Eph. 5:5-11
- A stronghold to uphold God's truth, 1 Tim. 3:14-16

Many sermons focus on certain characteristics of the church, but what can we learn by finding biblical descriptions of the NT people of God, those who are part of the church? [The biblical citations below are not intended to be complete, but only to give biblical basis for the description.]

Here are six biblical concepts to help us understand the church.

VALUABLE PEOPLE, sought after by God

Ex 19:5-7; Tit 2:14

Ps 9:10; Mt 22:37-39

HOLY PEOPLE, set apart by God for his purpose

Isa. 62:12

1 Pet 2:9, Tit. 2:14

REDEEMED PEOPLE, bought back or purchased

1 Pet 1:18-19

CITY NO LONGER DESERTED, where God lives

Dt. 32:18

Eph. 2:20-22

LOVED PEOPLE, people whom God loves

Isa 62:4; Eph. 5:25

PURIFIED PEOPLE, purified by God

Eph 5:23-25