

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

## **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

### **Love the LORD Your God**

**6** These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. <sup>3</sup> Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

## **Acts 2:42-47**

### **The Fellowship of the Believers**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes

and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## 2 Timothy 3:14-17

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### The Church - Edifies (Deut 6:1-9 & Acts 2:42-47 & 2 Tim 3:14-17) 08-Jan-2023

G'Day Church Family

Please have your Bibles in front of you – we'll be looking all 3 Bible passages – from **Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Acts 2:42-47** and **2 Timothy 3:14-17**.

There's an **outline** for you to **take notes** – if that helps you **concentrate**.

Let me ask **God** for His **help** and **guidance** first – let's **pray**...

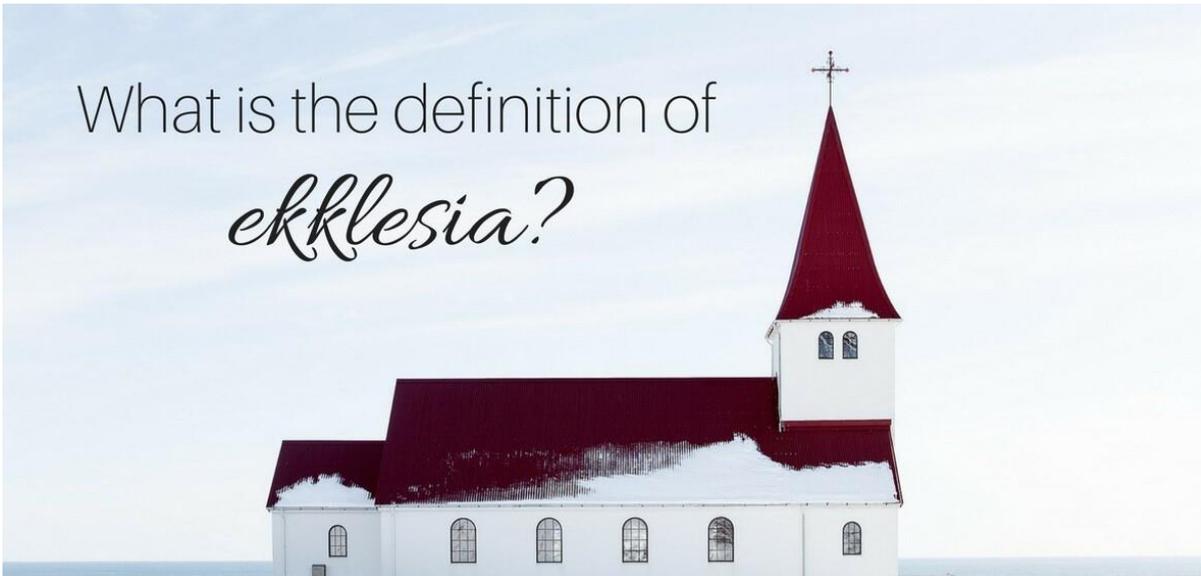
### Intro

This is the **second** of **5-part series** on The **Church**

The Church

In Greek it is ἐκκλησία

[Slide 1-Ekklesia definition]



**Ekklesia** the church - is not a **building** – Ekklesia the **church** is:

A gathering of people “**called out**” from their homes into some public place – or assembly.

The Ekklesia – the Church is:

- An assembly of Christians gathered together to worship God – and who believe in our Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life
- The Ekklesia – the Church – is the **whole body of Christians** – scattered throughout the world – aka the universal church

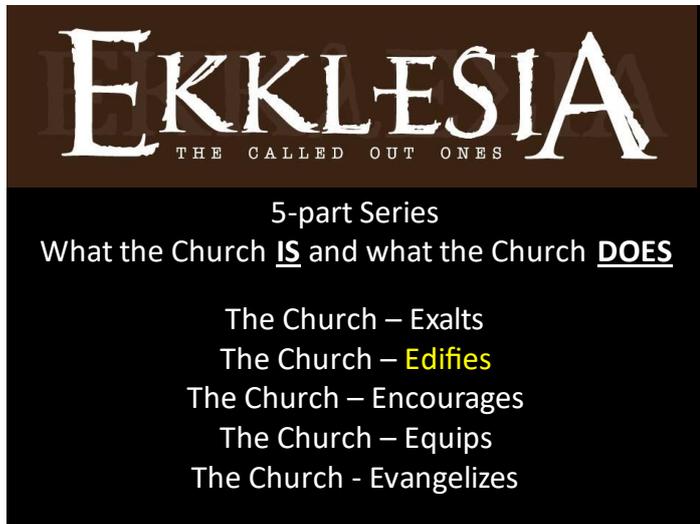
[Slide 2-Called out ones]



In essence the **Ekklesia** – the **church** – are the “**called out ones**” – called to worship God and follow Jesus.

In our **5-part series** – during January - we're going to see what the Church IS and what the Church DOES

[Slide 2a-5 e's]



This 5-part series will show how the Church - exalts, edifies, encourages, equips and evangelizes.

In **Part 1** – last week – we saw that - The Church – **EXALTS** God –

In other words, we as the Church – should be **putting God on the highest pedestal** – and **speaking as highly as we can about God**

**And we left ourselves - -last week - with the challenge or new year's resolution To personally exalt God – thanking Him daily – talking to Him daily - singing His praises daily – and talking about how great He is daily?**

(pause)

In **Part 2** – this week – we are going to see how - The Church –the Ekklesia - **EDIFIES** – the family of God – the Church Family

In New Testament Greek – edify – [**οικοδομέω**]

Literally means to **build a house**

So, another of the Church's – the Ekklesia's - **functions** is to - **build a house of Christian believers** – and **build them up** - in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, holiness and blessedness.

That's what edify means – **building up!**

Just like building a house – **needs a strong foundation** –

The house of Christian believers **needs a strong foundation** too

This is nothing new

### God's Word Edifies the People of Israel (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

In our Old Testament reading from **Deuteronomy chapter 6** –

The **context** is that - the people of God – the **Israelites** - are about to enter into the **Promised Land** – circa 1500 BC - and in the previous chapter (5) – **God** has just **given Moses** the **10 commandments** to pass on to the people– as a **foundation to living an obedient life that pleases a Holy God**

In our Deuteronomy 6:1-9 – we **see how important** the **foundation of God's Word** is and how it **edifies God's People**

[Slide 3-Heading]

[Slide 3a-remember]

1<sup>st</sup> – vv1-3 - God's people are told to **remember** God's Word – so that –**life will go well for them** when they enter the promised land

[Slide 3b-love]

2<sup>nd</sup> – vv4-5 – **God summarizes the 10 commandments down to one commandment** – see v5 - *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

God's point is – if people love Him – **they will want to obey Him** –  
 [10 commandments: 1) No other God; 2) No idols; 3) Don't blaspheme; 4) Keep Sabbath holy; 5) Respect parents; 6) Don't Murder; 7) Don't cheat; 8) Don't steal; 9) Don't lie; 10) Don't covet]

The first 4 commandments – are about loving God - and the last 6 commandments - are about loving others.

Whether people are showing their love for God or for others – **they are still loving God and being obedient**

Application – how good would the world be if everyone followed God's commandments?

(pause)

[Slide 3c-hearts and passing on]

3<sup>rd</sup> – **God** – through Moses – tells the people that **His commandments need to be on their hearts CONTINUALLY** – see v6

To achieve this

God says – the **people must** be **passing on these commandments to their children** – v7 – by teaching them **at home** – and **when** they are **walking** along the road – and at bedtime.

It begs the question – are we doing this - with our children and grandchildren?

When we're no longer here – will our children and grandchildren – say about us – **I remember mum/dad – grandma/grandpa** – reading the Bible to me – teaching me God's commandments?

A practical way God's people were to remember God's commands – was **to tie them on their foreheads** – phylacteries or tefillin –v8 – AND to write the commands around their house

Application - The bottom line for the Israelites and for us – is that **God's Word** needs to be more than - just - head-knowledge – it needs to be heart-knowledge – and **God's Word needs to be applied to our lives** – and **lived out**.

This is something that the Israelites struggled with – as we read the Old Testament – and it's something we struggle with too!

The answer – is to **continually come back to God's Word** – as our rule for living - and take His Word into our hearts...

### God's Word Edifies the Church (Acts 2:42-47 and 2 Timothy 3:14-16)

As we turn to our New Testament passage [[Acts 2:42-47](#) – Please turn there now] we see how the **early Church** – the **Ekklesia** – is **edified!**

[Slide 4-Heading]

We're looking at the same NT reading as last week – and we're focusing only on the part that edifies

[Slide 4a-Apostles' teaching]

Look at v42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching

Literally the **apostle's doctrine** – which is what the **Apostles' believed and taught**.

Where did the **Apostles get their teaching/doctrine from?**

Not from themselves – but from our **Lord Jesus** – **God's Son**

It was the teaching of Jesus that they **devoted themselves to**

That's what edified the church and built them up

Why is the teaching of Jesus so important and how does it edify His church?

Well – that’s where our 2<sup>nd</sup> NT reading comes in – from 2 Timothy 3:14-17

[Please turn there now]

The **context** is – The **Apostle Paul writes to his protégé Timothy** – and reminds Timothy how he was **taught the Scriptures as a child** – vv14-15

Timothy was actually taught by his **grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice** (2 Tim 1:5)

And Paul reminds Timothy how scripture edifies – **builds up - people**

[Slide 4b-Salvation]

Look at V15 – *God’s Word makes people wise for salvation through faith in Jesus*

In other words –

God’s Word clearly says that **Jesus came save to people** from the punishment of their sins by believing He died on a cruel cross for their sins to be forgiven!

And God’s Word clearly says that Jesus also came **to save people from death** – because by Jesus’ resurrection from the dead – 3 days after His death – people can also be resurrected – and live forever in Heaven

And God’s Word clearly says that – believing in **Jesus is the only way to be saved** for Heaven (see John 14:6)

Believing this truth and promise – should be a **huge way of us being edified – and built up** – because we know our future in Heaven is secured because of Jesus

Paul is not finished though – telling us how God’s Word edifies us...

Look at V16 –Paul says - *God's Word is God breathed – and useful for:*

[Slide 4c-Useful for...]

**God's Word is useful for - TEACHING** – **God's Word** teaches us all we need to know about God – His Son, Jesus – and about ourselves – and our need for a Saviour – because we can't completely keep God's rules! God's Word also teaches us what's right and what's wrong.

**God's Word is also useful for - REBUKING** – When we read God's Word and we see how other people disobey God – it **rebukes us** – when we disobey God – and we can clearly see – that **we need to repent of our disobedience.** As we read the Bible – we can **identify with the characters** in the Bible – and see how we are just like them...

**God's Word is useful for CORRECTING** – When we read God's Word – we can see where we have gone off track and not followed God's Word. For example – when we read the 10 commandments – it reminds us that **telling lies is a sin** – that **cheating in relationships is a sin** – that **neglecting our parents or being unkind to them is a sin** – and so on – knowing this should correct our behaviour and our thinking.

**And God's Word is useful for TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS** – The Bible says that *God wants us to be holy because God is holy* (Leviticus 11:44). So, the Bible is full of teaching on how to be righteous – that is how to be right with God and approved by God. The Bible also teaches that we can't be fully right with God by ourselves because *we fall short of His perfect standards* (Romans 3:23) –

and so the **Bible** continually points us towards having a relationship with **God's Son – Jesus** – so that we can be right with God and approved by God!

So - as we read the Bible – **we are continually** being edified and built up – and become more like Jesus.

This is only possibly – if we actually read the Bible and apply it to our lives.

### How WE can be edified here at St. David's

So, practically – how can we – here at St. David's – be **edified?**

Well - There are **several** ways:

[Slide 5-St. David's]

We have **Growth Groups or Bible Study Groups** – Here at St. David's our Growth Group/Bible Study Groups – are where a group of **people read and study God's Word together** – and they **grow** in their knowledge and love for God and His Son Jesus – and they **grow** in their love for each other.

It really is the **most edifying experience.**

Anyone here who has been part of a growth group for a period of time – will tell you how much they have grown from being part of that group.

It's my heart's desire everyone here would **join a Growth Group!**

There's a **sign-up sheet** in the foyer with various days/times – we will be starting the groups – week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> January.

We also have **another Bible Group called Nuts and Bolts** – This group meets after morning tea on Sundays – and **answers some fundamental questions about God and about Faith.**

Questions like:

*Is there anyone there?*

*Does God speak to us?*

*What is God like?*

*Who am I?*

*What went wrong with the world?*

*What is sin and is it serious?*

*What's the solution to sin?*

*How does Jesus answer sin?*

*Why did Jesus have to die?*

*How can I be saved?*

*What should my response be?*

The group has **some amazing discussions** – and again is **very edifying** - and again there's a **signup sheet** in the foyer – **everyone is welcome to join the group. This group recommences TODAY!**

**Another group we have is Christianity Explained** – This group is designed for a) people who have not yet put their faith in Jesus; b) for people who would like to know more about Christianity; and c) for people who would like to be able to share their faith with non-Christians in a gentle, kind and easy to follow manner. This group will be **starting up in the next few weeks** – and if you are interested – there is a **sign-up sheet** in the foyer for this group too.

These groups are not the **only way** to be edified by God's Word

We can also be edified by our own - personal Bible Reading and Bible Study – so we personally grow spiritually in our knowledge and faith in Jesus.

For our children/grandchildren to be edified by God's Word – we have **Friday and Sunday Jaffa** – and **Scripture teaching** in local schools (please see me if you'd like to be trained) – as well as **teaching our children and grandchildren at home.**

In doing all of this we're fulfilling the command God gave Moses to the people – - *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

### Conclusion (2 Timothy 3:17)

To finish up then – the purpose for the church being edified by God's Word is – as Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:17

[Slide 6-Conclusion]

V17 – *God's Word **EQUIPS** GOD'S SERVANTS FOR EVERY GOOD WORK...*

– which leads us onto the **other 3 functions of Church** – **encourage, equip and evangelize** – which we'll talk about in the next 3 weeks...

Let's pray...

*Father God, we thank you for your Word – which makes your church wise for salvation.*

*Thank you for your Word that teaches, rebukes, corrects and trains us in righteousness.*

*Help us both – individually and as a Church - to be more committed to reading and studying Your Word and applying it to our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.*