

P.M. OUTLINE  
8/19/2018

## CHURCH (CONGREGATION) NAMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

### INTRODUCTION

Holmes, Kristin E., "Religion & Ethics: What's In A Name?" San Diego Union-Tribune, January 11, 2002, page E6.

Monroe, Rick, "Churches Selecting Names That Are Relevant," Good News, Etc., Vista, CA, January, 2010, pages 1, 17.

This lesson notes words used in the New Testament for the church or local congregation.

There is not one "official name" for us to use to the exclusion of other names.

Many of these terms are not proper nouns; rather, may be a word that describes our work, our relationship to one another, or our relationship to God.

1. SECT - (Acts 28:17-31) (v22) "But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning **this sect**, we know that it is spoken against everywhere."

"Sect" - a party in religion differing from the main party; faction; sectarian.

The leaders of the Jews used this word, and in Paul's response to them, he uses the words (v23) "kingdom of God" and (v31) "kingdom of God"  
The Bible does not identify the church as a "sect" or denomination or sectarian.

2. WAY - (Acts 9:1-2) (v2) "and asked letters from him (the high priest) to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of **this way**, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem"

"Way" - is put for customs, manners, way of life, and method of salvation or doctrine of the gospel; a course of conduct or pathway of thinking.

(Acts 19:9) "But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of that way ... "  
(John 14:6) "Jesus said, I am the way, and the truth, and the life ... "

3. CHURCH - (Acts 2:36-47) (v47) "... the Lord added to **the church** daily those who being saved."

W.E. Vine, "**church**" - (Gr. ekklesia) a calling out of; assembly.  
(Acts 2:39) "For the promise is to you and your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."  
(2 Thess. 2:13-14) "... for salvation ... to which He called you by our gospel ... "

The "church" is not the building: (Matthew 16:18) "I will build My church"  
(Acts 8:1) "At that time a great persecution arose against the church ... "  
(v3) "Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison"  
(Acts 14:27) "Now when they had come and gathered the church together ... "

CLOSE - Lord willing, to be continued next week.