

**Welcome to**  
**The Bible Forum**





**Are not all Christians  
members  
of the Body of Christ?**

**Tradition says:**

**Certainly, **all Christians** are  
members of the **Body of Christ****

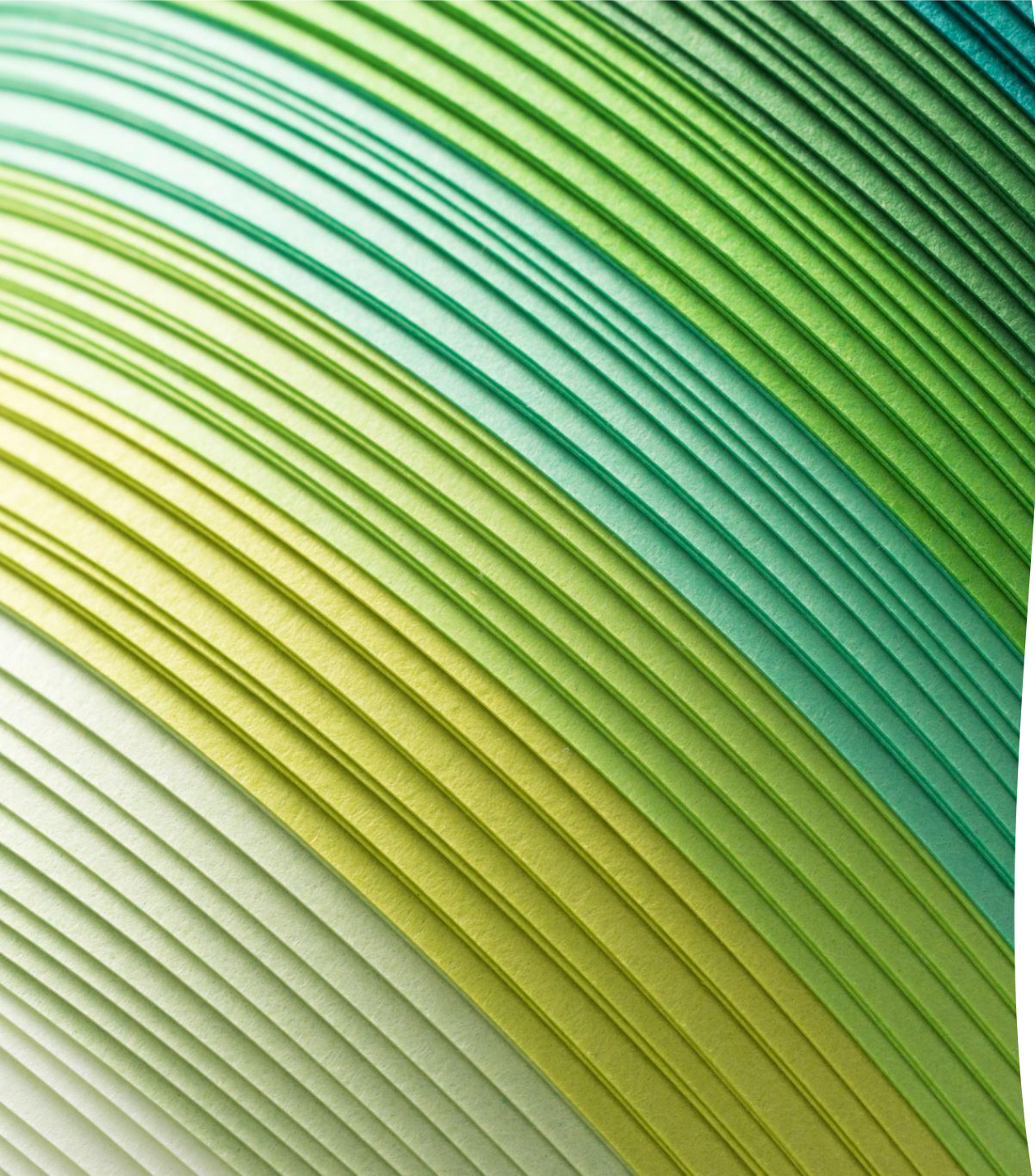
**Where did you get that idea?**

**Have you ever read the Bible?**

**What is the Body of Christ?**

**Do you have a brain?**

**Seriously, this is a valid  
And important question  
That must be handled carefully**



**Anyone who is saved,  
called a saint,  
**can** become a member  
of the Body of Christ  
when they believe  
and acknowledge  
the truth of the  
mystery.**

**Satan has worked very hard  
For centuries to keep saints  
From knowing the truth about**

**The mystery of the Body of Christ**



**CHURCH**

**Two misleading words**

**GOSPEL**

**ONE CHURCH**

**Two misleading doctrines**

**ONE GOSPEL**

# CALLING-OUT

Not “church”  
from Circe

Ekklesia in the wilderness

Ekklesia of the firstborn

Ekklesia of God

Ekklesia which is His Body

Ekklesia of Christ

# GOOD MESSAGES

---

*Euangelion  
ho basiliea*

*Euangelion  
Iesous Christos*

*Euangelion  
aionios*

*Euangelion  
Theos*

*Euangelion  
ho charis Theos*

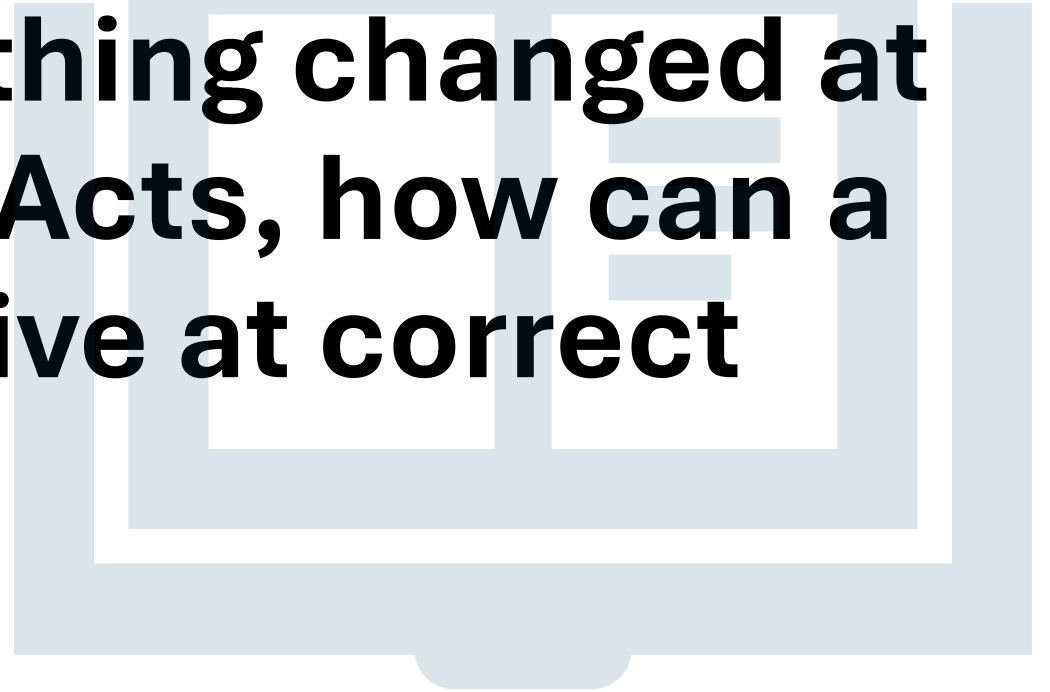
*Euangelion  
Ho doxa*



**This is why  
rightly dividing  
the word of  
truth  
according to  
2 Tim 2:15  
is so important  
and necessary**



**Without an understanding that something changed at the end of Acts, how can a person arrive at correct answers?**



# Ignatius of Antioch circa 107

*Wheresoever the bishop shall appear, there let the people be; even as where Jesus may be, there is the “universal Church” (katholikos ekklesia).*

## **Matt 16:15-18**

**He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?**

**<sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

**<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona:  
for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

**<sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter,  
**and upon this rock I will build my church;**  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**





**Two of the earliest  
Christian  
denominations**

**Were the Roman  
Catholic Church**

**And the Eastern  
(Greek) Orthodox  
Church**

## **Commentary on Matt 16:18**

### **From my Catholic Bible footnotes**

**To the tradition of Peter's confession at Caesarea, Philippi, Matthew adds the doctrine of the divinity of Christ, together with Jesus' prophecy that He will successfully build **a new Israel**, that is, **the church**, upon Peter.**

**In Matthew, the building of a **new Israel** on Peter pertains to Jesus' own role in the mystery of the reign of God that has appeared in history. Jesus cannot build His church upon Peter until after His death and resurrection. For Matthew, Jesus' building of the **new people of God** upon Peter is a continuing reality for the Christian community of His time.**

The core beliefs of Catholicism are found in the Nicene Creed. The Catholic Church teaches that it is the **one, holy, catholic, apostolic church** founded by Jesus Christ in his Great Commission, that its bishops are the successors of Christ's apostles, and that the pope is the successor to Saint Peter, upon whom primacy was conferred by Jesus Christ.



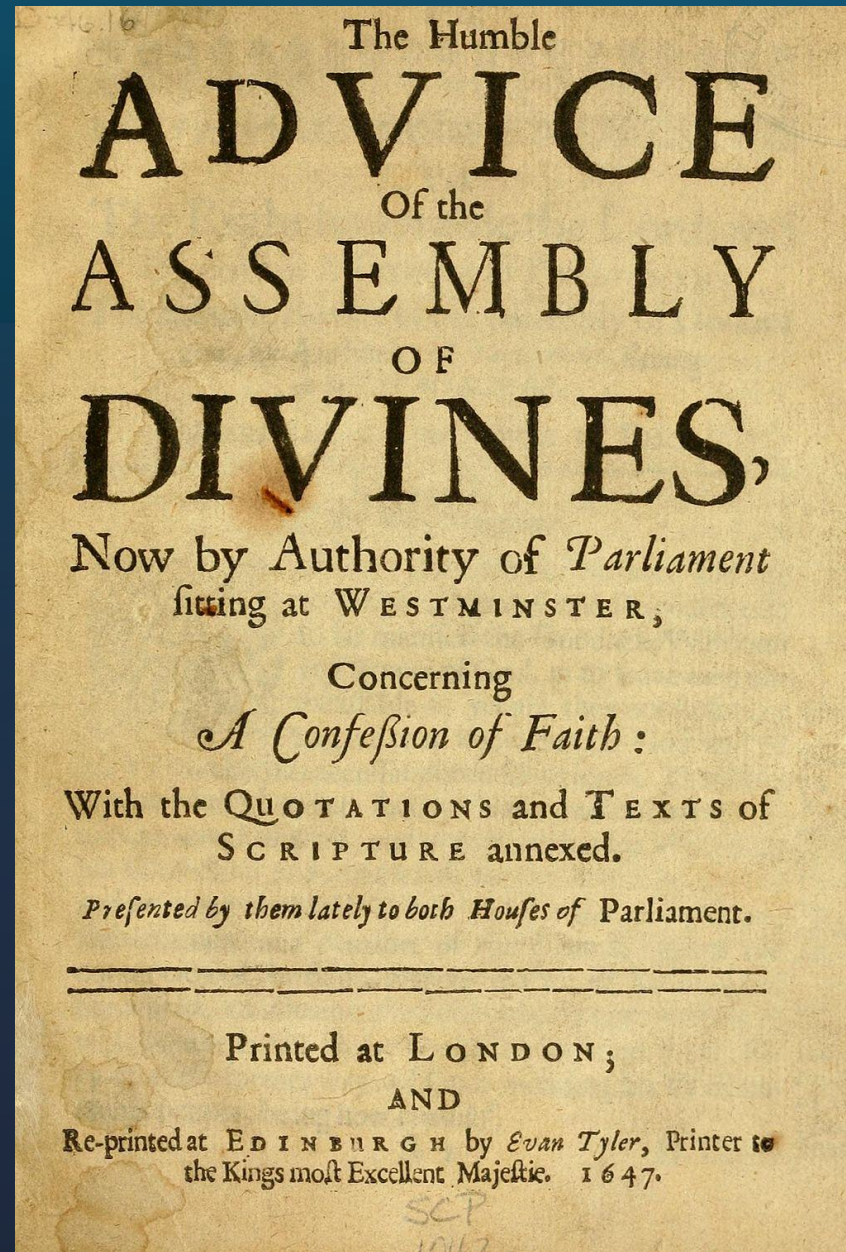


## EASTERN (GREEK) ORTHODOX

Eastern Orthodox theology is based on the Scriptures and holy tradition as expressed in the Nicene Creed... **One, holy, catholic and apostolic church** established by Jesus Christ in his Great Commission, and that its bishops are the successors of Christ's apostles.

The church has no central doctrinal or governmental authority analogous to the head of the Catholic Church (the pope). Nevertheless, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople is recognized by them as *primus inter pares* ("first among equals"), a title formerly given to the patriarch of Rome.

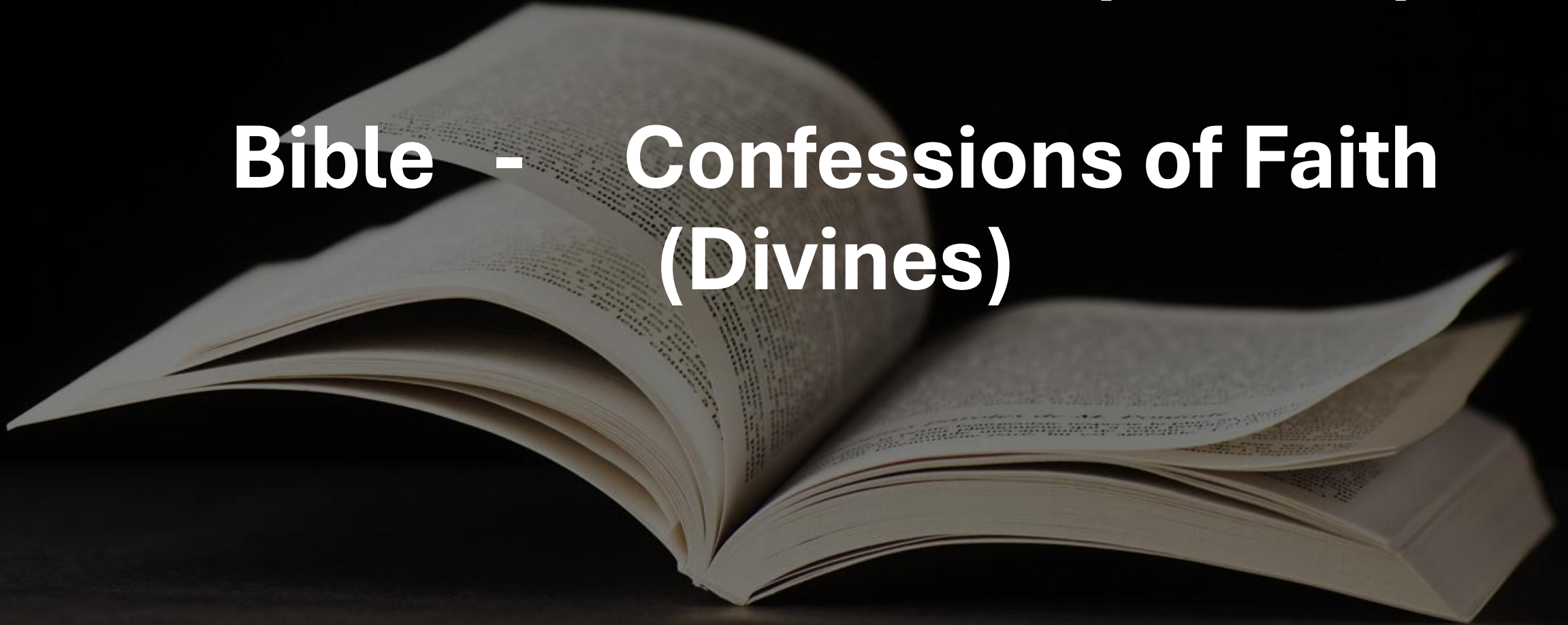
1647



“Divines”

**Tanakh - Talmud (Rabbis)**

**Bible - Confessions of Faith  
(Divines)**



## Chapter III. Of God's Eternal Decree

V. **Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world** was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, **has chosen**, in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith, or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereunto; and all to the praise of His glorious grace.

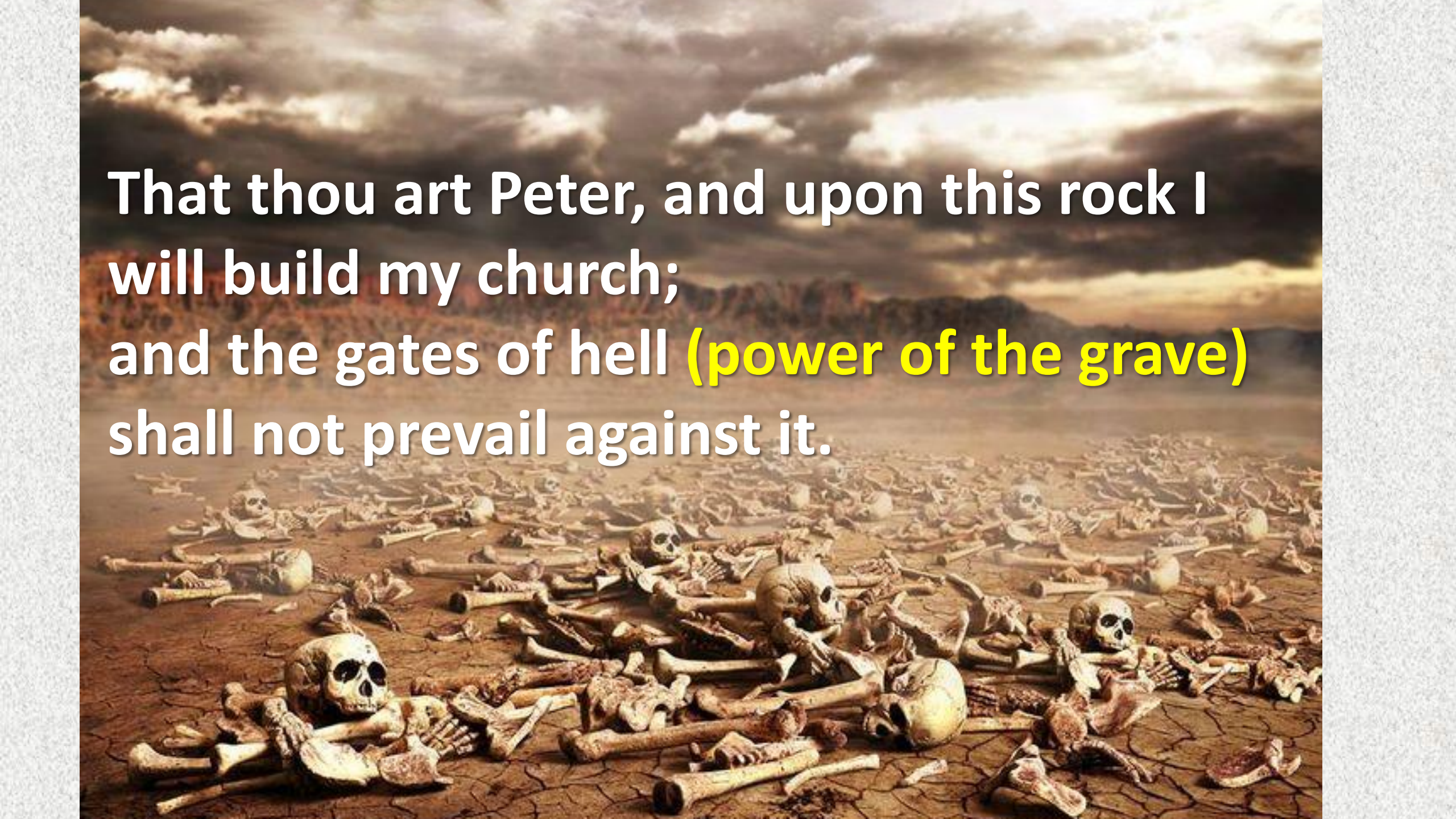
## Chapter VIII Of Christ the Mediator

I. It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, **the Head and Savior of His Church**, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom He did from all eternity give a people, to be His seed, and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.



## Chapter XXV Of the Church

I. The catholic or universal Church, which is invisible, consists of the **whole number of the elect**, that **have been, are, or shall be** gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is **the spouse**, the body, the fulness of Him that fills all in all.

A desolate landscape of a dry, cracked earth covered in human skeletons and bones under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The scene is filled with a sense of despair and the power of the grave.

That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I  
will build my church;  
and the gates of hell (**power of the grave**)  
shall not prevail against it.

**Resurrection of the saints??**

**Or**

**Hosea 6:2 Resurrection of Israel?**



## **Eze 37:12-14**

**Therefore, prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will **open your graves**, and cause you to **come up out of your graves**, and bring you into the land of Israel.**

**<sup>13</sup> And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up **out of your graves**,**

**<sup>14</sup> And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.**

**Rom 9:27**

**Esaias also crieth concerning Israel,  
Though the number of the children of Israel  
be as the sand of the sea,  
**a remnant shall be saved:****

**Rom 11:5**

**Even so then at this present time also there is **a remnant**  
according to the election of grace.**

## Heb 12:22-24

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

<sup>23</sup> To the **general assembly and church of the firstborn**, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

<sup>24</sup> And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

---

**Is this “Church”**

**“The Bride of the Lamb”**

## Rev 19:7-9

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the **marriage of the Lamb** is come, and **his wife** hath made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. <sup>9</sup> And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the **marriage supper of the Lamb**.



## **Rev 21:2**

*And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a **bride** adorned for her husband.*

## **Rev 21:9**

*And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, **the Lamb's wife**.*

*And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the **holy Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from God,*

**Rev 22:17**

***And the Spirit and **the bride** say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.***



**Matt 16:18**

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

If any church will be the “**bride of Christ**” or **Bride of the Lamb**  
It will be the church of Matt 16:18 which is of elect Israel  
That will reside in the great city, new Jerusalem.



**If you agree that  
Israel was set aside  
at the end of Acts,**

**Then this “church”  
was also set aside  
at the end of the of  
Acts**

**There are at least three “churches” or *ekklesias* in the New Testament**

**3**

**Church of the elect Body of Christ      The Husband**

**Church of elect Israel**

**The Bride**

**Church of the called to life, but not chosen**

**There are three spheres of blessing associated with three adoptions**

**3**

**Far above all: Heavenly places**

**Holy City New Jerusalem**

**New earth: Paradise restored**

**If all believers are members of the same body,  
The Body of Christ.....Then .....**

**How can  
one body  
be of itself  
so divided?**





**How can one body occupy three different places?**

**How can one body have three different inheritances?**

**How can one body be two-thirds earthly and one-third heavenly?**

**His inheritance in the most holy place (Eph 1:18)**



**He hath prepared them a city (Heb 11:16)**



**The meek shall inherit the earth (Matt 5:5)**

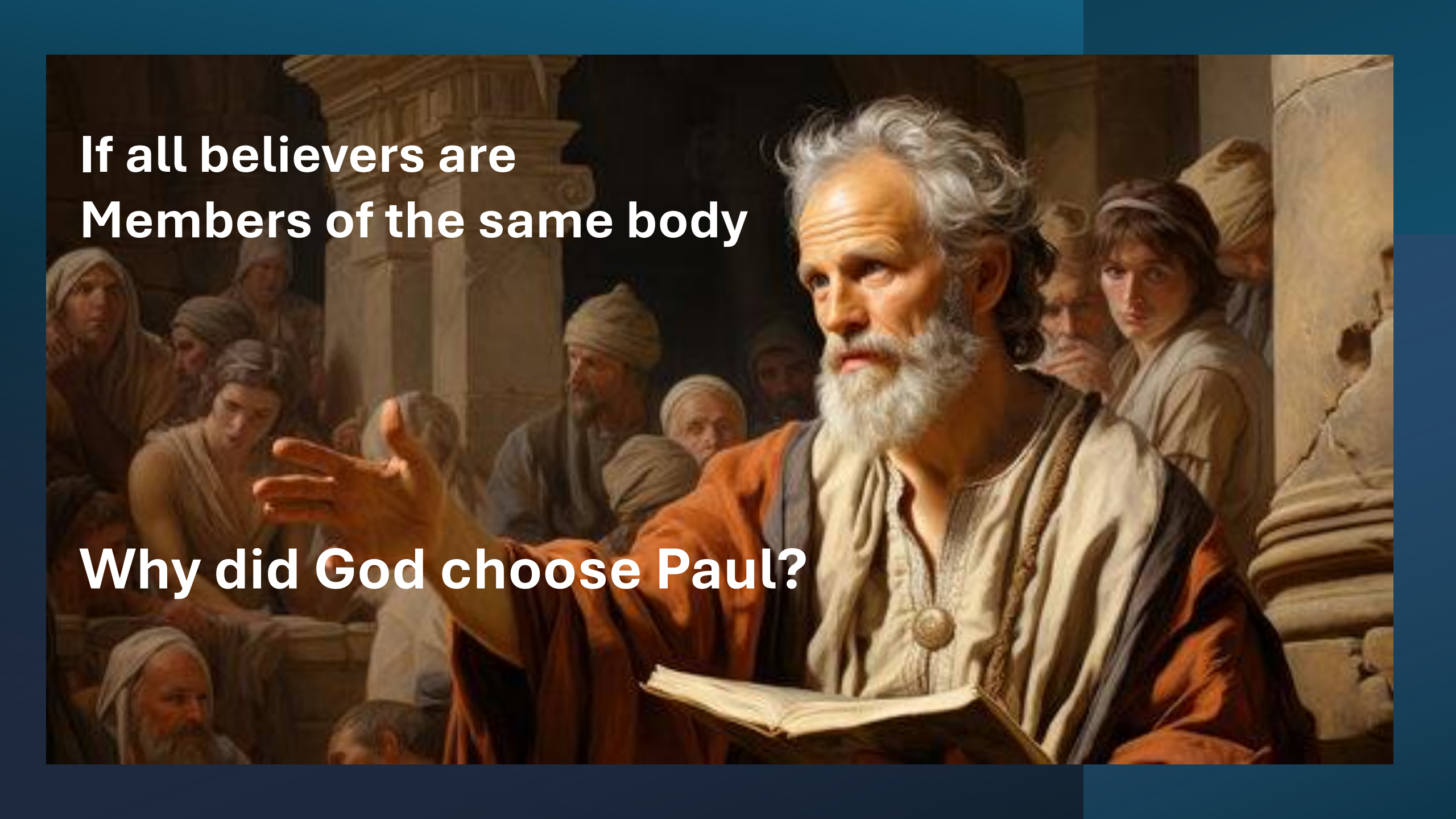


**Why is the dispensation of the mystery of the Body of Christ called a mystery?**

**This mystery is a profound secret, something wholly unknown and cautiously kept concealed**

**If the mystery of the Body of Christ was revealed to Paul when he wrote Eph 3:5, how could it have written about before in the Scriptures?**

- **If it was hid in God from the beginning of the world (Eph 3:9)**
- **And hid from ages and from generations (Col 1:26)  
But now is made manifest to his saints**
- **How could it have existed before in the Scriptures?**

A detailed painting of Paul the Apostle preaching to a diverse crowd in a classical building. Paul, an older man with a long white beard and hair, is the central figure. He is dressed in a white tunic with a gold brooch and a brown cloak. He holds an open book in his left hand and gestures with his right hand towards the audience. The crowd consists of men and women of various ages and ethnicities, all looking towards Paul with varying degrees of interest and attention. The background features classical architectural elements like columns and arches, suggesting an indoor setting like a synagogue or a public hall. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on Paul's face and the book, and deep shadows elsewhere.

**If all believers are  
Members of the same body**

**Why did God choose Paul?**

**Why did Paul write In Ephesians 3 that his second ministry was**

**“to make all *saints* see the dispensation of the mystery” (3:9)**

**And in Colossians 1**

**“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to complete the word of God;” (1:25)**

**“The mystery which had been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints” (1:26)**

**Eph 3:15**

**For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father**

**Of whom ~~the whole~~ every family in heaven and earth is named**

**Eph 1:10**

**That in the dispensation of the fullness of times  
He might gather together in one  
all things in Christ  
which are in the heavens and which are on earth  
in Him.**



**All in Christ will be gathered together in Him**



**In the dispensation of the fullness of times**

A pair of blue and red binoculars is shown in a close-up, slightly angled view, resting on a light-colored wooden railing. The binoculars have a textured blue body with red accents around the objective lenses. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor setting, possibly a beach or a park, with a warm, golden light suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Search and See

