

Chapter 26 – The Church #2

2nd – THE REALITY OF THE CHURCH (Para 3) – *‘The purest churches under heaven are liable to be troubled by mixture and error, and some have so far degenerated as no longer to be churches of Christ at all, but ‘synagogues of Satan’. Nevertheless, Christ always has had a kingdom in this world of such as believe in Him and profess His name, and He ever will have such a kingdom to the world’s end.’* – Ps 72:17... 102:28... Mt 16:18... 1 Cor 5... 2 Thess. 2:11,12... Rev 2... 3... 12:17... 18:2

(1st) NO CHURCH IS PERFECT – 1 Corinthians 1:10-11... 5:1... Galatians 1:2,6-7... Revelation 2 & 3

R.C. Sproul – *‘The church as Augustine taught, is always a “mixed body” in this world. It is made up of wheat and tares. Though the tares are in the visible church, they have no place in the invisible church. It is possible for a true believer to be in the invisible church, while not in the visible church, if providentially hindered or if temporarily blinded by false doctrine.’*

(2nd) THE TRUE CHURCH IS INDESTRUCTIBLE – Matthew 18:16... Philippians 1:6

The Church with Christ’s kingdom – Mark 10:17-27... Acts 8:12... 19:8... Luke 17:20-21

3rd – THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH (Para 4) – *‘The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church. By the appointment of the Father, all authority requisite for the calling, establishment, ordering and governing of the church is supremely and sovereignly invested in Him. It is impossible for the Pope of Rome in any true sense to be the head of the church, for he is the (or an) antichrist, described in Scripture as “the man of sin,” “the son of perdition,” who “exalts himself in the church against Christ and ‘above all that is called God,” whom “the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.”’* – Mt 28:18-20 ... Eph 4:11,12... Col 1:18... 2 Thess. 2:2-9

Matthew 28:18-20... Ephesians 3:21... Colossians 1:18-19

II. The Local Church – paragraphs 5-15...

John Murray – *‘The church is an institution existing by God’s action, maintained by His grace, and directed by His Spirit. As it exists by God’s action, so it must be conducted in accord with His prescription... We cannot think of Christ properly apart from the church. All the offices He exercises as Head over all things, He exercises on behalf of the church.’*
– *Collected Writings* (vol. 1, p.237-38)

1st – THE INSTITUTION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH (Para 5) – *‘In the exercise of the authority which has been entrusted to Him, the Lord Jesus, through the ministry of the Word and by His Spirit, calls to Himself out of the world those who are given to Him by His Father, that they may live in His sight, rendering Him the obedience prescribed by Him for them in the Scripture. He commands those thus called to form particular societies or churches to promote their common welfare, and to engage in the public worship which He requires them to carry on while they continue in the world.’* – Mt 18:15-20... 28:20... Jn 10:16... 12:32

The Lord DIRECTLY exercises His authority by;

(1st) THE HOLY SPIRIT – John 14:16-18,26... 15:26-27... 16:7-8, 13-15...

(2nd) THE SCRIPTURES – Acts 5:31-32... Eph 2:19-22... 2 Timothy 3:13-17... 4:1-4...

A LOCAL CHURCH is a localized assembly of believers – Acts 2:41-47... 9:26-28...

(1st) The CALLED OUT ONES – 1 Peter 2:9... 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14... 2 Timothy 1:9

(2nd) DISCIPLES – Matthew 28:19-20... John 15:10,14