

Divin' In – Wednesday Night Bible Study

THE CHURCH OF THE SPRINGS – 2/21/24

“Let us seize and hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised it is reliable and trustworthy and faithful [to His word]....”

– from **Hebrews 10:23**



ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

What is the church?

Hebrews 10:24 AMP

“...and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may **encourage** one another to love and to do good deeds....”

Hebrews 10:25 AMP

“...not forsaking our **meeting** together [as believers for **worship** and **instruction**], as is the **habit** of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.”

Judges 4:23-24, 5:1-2,7-8 AMP

“So on that day God subdued and humbled Jabin king of Canaan before the sons of Israel. And the hand of the sons of Israel pressed down heavier and heavier on Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed him....Then **Deborah** and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying, “For the leaders who took the lead in Israel, for the people who volunteered [for battle], bless the Lord!... “The villagers ceased to be; they ceased in Israel, until I, **Deborah**, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel. They chose new gods; then war was in the **gates**.”

The gates in Israel were shut at nightfall (Joshua 2:5) because they were the chief point from which the enemy attacked (Judges 5:8). Idolatrous acts were performed at the gates (Acts 14:13). Battering rams were set against the gates (Ezekiel 21:22) and the gates were broken down and burned with fire (Nehemiah 1:3), and Mordecai heard conspirators (Esther 2:21) while sitting at the king's gate.

Matthew 16:16-18 ESV

“[Jesus] said to them [His disciples], “But who do YOU say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the **Christ**, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my **Father** who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

The word “prevail” needs to be understood in context. PREVAIL implies being able to stand your ground, to resist, to withstand the onslaught. The GATE of a city is a defensive mechanism for protecting a city. So if the gate is trying to PREVAIL, who is doing the attacking?

The word “church” in this verse is “ekklesia” [ἐκκλησία].

When Martin Luther translated the Greek Bible to German, he chose the word “kirche.” Ekklesia actually means an assembly of like-minded individuals – a congregation, a movement, group thought.

William Tyndale, when creating an English translation, consulted the Greek and Hebrew original texts AND Martin Luther's New Testament.

Ephesians 6:11-2,17b NLT

“Put on all of God's **armor** so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil **rulers** and authorities of the **unseen** world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places....and take the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the Word of God.”

