

## 14 - Church

- Scriptures:**
- Romans through Philemon
  - Acts (transitional book from law to grace, from Peter to Paul, from Israel to the church)

- Focal point:**
- The Gospel of Grace Being Preached in All the World

- Principal characters:**
- Jesus Christ (Head of the church)
  - Paul
  - The Body of Christ

- Primary events:**
- Holy Spirit Given to Indwell Believers
  - The Salvation of Paul on the Road to Damascus
  - The Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations
  - The Founding of Local Churches
  - Apostasy in the End

### **Israel fails to be the *light* of the world.**

- After the crucifixion of their Christ, Israel continued to **rebel** against God and persecute Christ's Spirit-filled followers. Acts 2-8
- It was prophesied that at this time God would pour out His **wrath** on a rebellious world. Psalm 2:1-5, 110:1-3

### **God reveals the riches of His grace.**

- Instead of releasing His wrath on His enemies, God dispensed **grace** to a lost and dying world.
- This period is called "*the dispensation of the grace of God.*" Ephesians 3:2
- This mystery was revealed to the apostle **Paul**. Ephesians 3:1-3

### **A new creation, the *church*, is brought into existence.**

- The church is the **body** of Christ. Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:29-32

The book of Acts reveals to us the *transitional* time period from Israel to the church (body of Christ).

God spoke through Paul to give *thirteen* books of the Bible specifically to the church (body of Christ).

- These books are *Romans* through Philemon.
- Clearly, the *mission* of the church is to take the good news of Jesus Christ to every person. Romans 10:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Colossians 1:9