

# THANK *Full*

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## I'M THANKFUL FOR THE CHURCH

### What is the Church?

- The word “church” is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia* which is defined as “an assembly” or “called-out ones.”
- The Church is the Body of Christ.
- The universal (Big C) Church consists of everyone, everywhere, who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Local churches are gatherings of people who claim the name of Christ.

<sup>18</sup> I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. <sup>19</sup> I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power <sup>20</sup> that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. <sup>21</sup> Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. <sup>22</sup> God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. <sup>23</sup> And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself. **Ephesians 1:18-23 NLT**

### I’m thankful the church is not a building.

<sup>19</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup> “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he

comes, he will explain everything to us.” <sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” **John 4:19-26 NIV**

<sup>12</sup> The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. **1 Corinthians 12:12-13 NLT**

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” **John 18:36 NIV**

- The Church is made up of God’s people.
- Burn the church building down, and the believers still comprise the church.

### I’m thankful the church isn’t for perfect people.

<sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. <sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. <sup>25</sup> For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. **Romans 3:22-25a NLT**

### I’m thankful the church is a place of healing.

<sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:14-16 NLT**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10:24-25 NIVUK**

### I’m thankful the church is so dear to the heart of Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. <sup>27</sup> He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. **Ephesians 5:25-27 NLT**

### Next steps for me today...

- Pray for the Church.
- Join a local church family.
- Be the Church wherever you go.