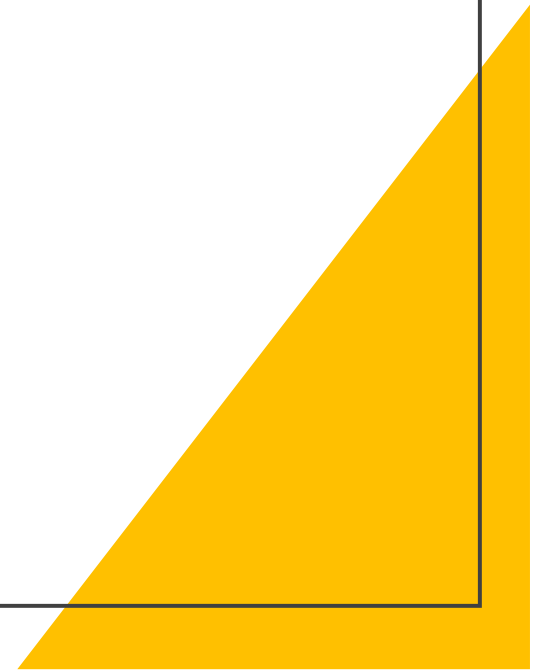


Why Join\* a  
Church?  
Acts 9:26-28



# The Asterisk\*!

- I do realize that when a person is baptized into Christ they are added to the church by Jesus Christ Himself. Acts 2:47:

*Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved.*

- Therefore, when one is baptized into Jesus Christ, Christ adds him/her to his body of baptized believers wherever he/she is located
- The “joining” takes place when one who has already been baptized wishes to be affiliated with a local group, like Paul wanted to do in Acts chapter 9:26-28

## But if We Never Choose to Affiliate With a Local Church, What Happens?

- I've heard of people who will sporadically "drop by" a church body but never "join themselves" to that church
- They argue that they are members of the Church "universally," and just prefer to visit around
- When asked to serve in a church ministry they refuse because they were not members of that local church (they usually shun that level of involvement)
- But when they are admitted to the hospital what pastors or deacons of the "universal church" even know? What members follow them through prayer and supplication?
- When they need significant assistance after hospital discharge, were members of the "universal church" available to organize meals, home assistance initiatives?  
(spiritual home care for the family/substitutions/rest)

# So Why Join a Local Church?

## #1 It's Biblical

- The consistent pattern throughout the New Testament was that each local body of believers was to be overseen by pastors or elders or bishops who were charged with the specific task of shepherding God's people.
- Example: The Apostle Paul met with the elders from the Ephesian church, Acts 20:17, and charged them in vs 28:

*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers (bishops), to feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.*

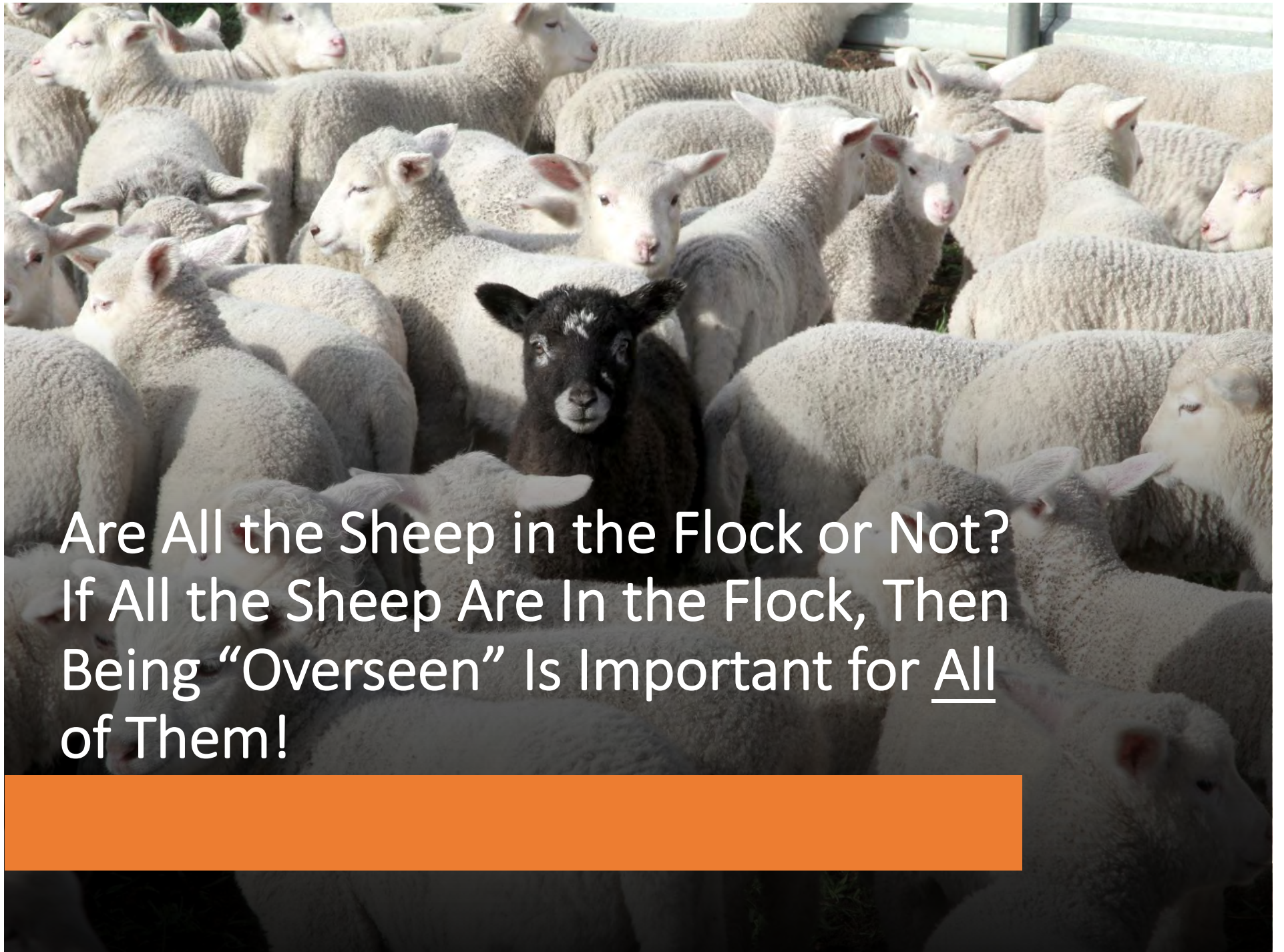
## 1 Peter 5:1-3

***The elders which are among you, I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:***

***Feed (pastor, or shepherd) the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;***

***Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.***

- The Biblical pattern then is that the flock of God is “overseen” by its shepherds (pastors, elders, bishops)
- Question: Are sheep in the flock or not in the flock?



Are All the Sheep in the Flock or Not?  
If All the Sheep Are In the Flock, Then  
Being “Overseen” Is Important for All  
of Them!



# Other Scriptures

## 1 Thessalonians 5:12

*And we beseech you brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;*

## Hebrews 13:17

*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

**How Can You Be Under Accountability Without Being a Member Where Your Leaders Are?**

**Therefore, To Be a Sheep  
With No Shepherd Is Not  
a Scriptural Position For  
a Sheep!**

**(The Member-at-Large Category)**

**THERE IS NO SUCH THING!**





***The Local Church then is the Visible  
Manifestation of God's People, Who Come  
Together in Local Assemblies for the Purpose of  
Worship, for Testimonies of God's Grace and  
Kindness, and for Fellowship and Service, Like  
the Woodland Park Church of Christ***



**There Is No  
Scripture For The  
One Pastor Form Of  
Government For  
The Local Body of  
Baptized Believers!**

**According to the  
Bible, a “Plurality”  
of Elders Were  
Ordained in Every  
Church**

**Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5**

# Acts 14:23

*And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed*

## Titus 1:5

*For this cause I left thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee*

- Paul left Titus, the preacher, with a job of setting the church “in order,” and to ordain the local leaders of the church, known as the elders or bishops, or pastors

## Philippians 1:1

*Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints of Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons*

# The Plan Of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**

**Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 8:38**

