

***Concerning meeting in Houses,  
Ships, Streets, Mountains, and  
Highways. And in what places  
the Prophet Jeremiah, Christ,  
and the Apostles taught or  
preached in, may be seen in the  
scriptures.***

***And how Christ and the Apostles were haled out of their meetings,  
when, or while they were speaking. John 18:1, Mat 26:47, Mark 16:17,  
Acts 4:2-3,5:24-27.***

***By George Fox***

***Site Editor's Preface:*** Quakers often met in barns, private houses, and fields – for many years before they had meeting houses. They were looked down of because of this, as being uncivilized, called “house-meeters;” not meeting in the grand buildings that reflect man's vanity and pride. This paper shows how Christ, the disciples, and apostles often met in homes, or outside. An interesting anecdote: Before Quaker meetings houses, (plain and functional), were built, they met outside. George Whitehead reports meeting outside in the rain and snow. For two years in the freezing sleet of winter, despite standing still for several hours, they did not get cold, and never got sick – supernatural care from our loving Father and Son, watching over his sheep.

Here you may see, how Christ and his apostles, and John Baptist, were not tied to places to preach in; for Christ sent his apostles into all nations to preach the gospel, and to every creature under heaven.

And sometimes Christ preached in the synagogues, and in the temple, and in houses, and in the wilderness, and on ship-board, and upon the seashore, and upon the mountains; and the apostles did likewise preach not only in the synagogues, but in other common houses. And the primitive christians, you do not read that they gave titles of synagogues, or temples, or churches to their

meeting houses, as were given to the Jews synagogues and temple, in the old testament; for a church was Christ's believers, and Christ was the head of them.

Now those who profess the scriptures of the New Testament, and say, it is their rule, they may see by the scripture that follows, it is no strange thing for God's people to meet in mountains, or deserts, or in ships, or in common houses. And did not John the Baptist preach in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,' in his raiment of camel's hair and leathern girdle, and then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and the regions round about Jordan. Mat 3:3-4, Mark 1:3-4. John was a voice crying in the wilderness, saying, 'Prepare you the way of the Lord, make his path straight.' And Luke 3:4-5. 'The word of the Lord came to John, the son of Zachariah, in the wilderness, who preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,' and said, 'Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough shall be made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance,.. for now is the axe laid to the root of the trees, and every tree therefore which brings not forth fruit, is to be hewn down and cast into the fire.' And John was a man sent from God, who bore witness to the light, and said, 'He was not that light; but that was the true light which enlightens every man that comes in the world.' John 1:6-9.

And the wise men that came from the east, who saw the star in the east, that came to see the young child Jesus, and the star stood over the house, where Christ was born in Bethlehem, and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him. Had not the wise men a meeting with Christ Jesus and Mary in the stable in Bethlehem, though he lay in a manger? And Herod was in such a rage, because that the wise men did not tell him where Christ was born, that he sent forth and slew all the men children that were in Bethlehem, and in the coast thereof, from two years old and under.. For the wise men were warned of God, not to go to Herod, but to depart into their own country, by another way.

'And Jesus walked by the sea side of Galilee, and saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting their nets into the sea, for they were fishermen; and going from thence, he saw other two brethren, James, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them, and they immediately left their ship and nets, and their father, and followed him.' Here did not Christ preach by the sea-side of Galilee, and convert those four persons, and made them his disciples? Mat 4:18-21.

And there followed Christ a great multitude from Galilee, and Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan; and Jesus seeing the multitude, he went upon the mountain, and when he was sat down, his disciples

came unto him, and he opened his mouth and taught them and the multitude, as you may see, in Mat 5. to Mat 7 and how he expounds the law, and makes a distinction between the old testament and the new; there you may see his large sermon upon the mountain, to the great multitude and his disciples: so he preached upon a mountain. And Christ, after he had given power to his twelve apostles, he said unto them, 'As you go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand;' mark, as you go, preach; so they were to preach as they went; 'and into whatever city or town you enter, inquire who is worthy, and there abide until you go thence; and when you come into any house, salute it; and if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when you depart out of the house or city, shake off the dust of your feet for a testimony against it,' Mat 10, Mark 7:11. Here you may see, that Christ's disciples preached in houses; and Christ told them, 'Beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues.' That was their portion they should have there; and that was and is the portion of Christ's disciples, that they have from the outward professors, in their outward synagogues, and haling of them before the rulers and governors for Christ's sake, and for a testimony against them.

Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath day, and his disciples were hungry, and began to pluck the heads of grain, and to eat; and when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, 'Behold, your disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the Sabbath day.' And you may see how Christ preached to them, and reprov'd their blindness. Mat 12.

Jesus sat by the seashore, and a great multitude were gathered together unto him, and he went into the ship, and sat, and the whole multitude stood on the shore, and Christ spoke many things in parables to them, and taught them out of the ship. Mat 13. And Jesus came near the sea of Galilee, and went into a mountain, and sat there, and a great multitude came unto him, and they continued with him three days; and he commanded the multitude to sit on the ground in the wilderness, and took the five loaves and three little fishes, and he gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to the disciples, and the disciples to the multitude; and those who did eat were four thousand men, besides women and children. And was not here a great meeting that Christ both fed, taught, and worked this great miracle upon the mountain, and in the wilderness? Mat 15:29-50, Mark 8:1-13.

Jesus takes Peter, and James, and John, and brings them up into an high mountain apart, where he was transfigured before them, and as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening. Mat 17:1-13, Mark 9:2, Luke 9:28. Here you may see Christ prayed with his disciples in the mountain; and was not here a meeting? And Jesus came into the coasts of Judea, beyond Jordan, and a great multitude followed him, and he

taught them. Mat 19:1-2, Mark 10:1-2. And the Pharisees came and tempted him, those who were in a profession without possession.

And Christ said in his parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, who made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants, and said, go you into the highways, and as many as you shall find, told them to come to the marriage.' Mat 22:9. And is not this a parable of the marriage to Christ, the son of God? And did not those who made light of his marriage, entreat his servants spitefully, and slew them, and went away, one to his farm, and another to his merchandise? 'And as Jesus sat at dinner in his house, behold many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples; and when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto the disciples, why does your master eat with publicans and sinners?' But Christ, when he heard that, said unto them, 'that the whole need no physician, but those who are sick;' for, said he, 'I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.' Mat 9:10-13. Did not he preach in a house here?

And again, as Christ sat upon the Mount of Olives, and his disciples came to him, Christ foretold them the destruction of the temple, and what great calamity should come, as you may see in Mat 24:3-51. And had not Christ and his disciples a meeting there upon the Mount of Olives, over against the temple? Mark 13:1-3. And did not Christ have a meeting with his disciples in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, when the woman poured the precious box of ointment upon his head? And did not Christ instruct his disciples largely about that, and said, 'Verily, I say unto you, wherever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman has done, be told for a memorial of her? For in that she has poured this ointment upon me, she did it for my burial.' Mat 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9. And did not Christ preach this doctrine in the house of Simon the leper at Bethany? And did not Christ keep the passover in a house with his disciples? For when the evening was come, he sat down with the twelve. Mat 26:17-20, Mark 14:14-15, Luke 22:11, John 13:1-2. And here did not Christ keep an evening meeting in a house with his disciples concerning the passover, and taught them, and instructed them? And he did not keep this meeting in the temple, or the Jews' synagogues, but in a chamber in a house, as you may see in the scriptures.

And did not Christ have a meeting in the house of Simon, and healed his wife's mother, who lay sick of a fever, and at evening, when the sun was set, all the city were gathered together at Simon Peter's house door? Did they not have an evening meeting there? Mark 1:29-33.

In Mark 3:13-14, 'Christ goes up into a mountain, and calls to himself those whom he chose;' and there Christ ordained twelve disciples, 'that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach the gospel.' And they

went into an house, and the multitude came together, so that they could not so much as eat their dinner; Mark 3:19-20, to the end. Here you may see Christ ordained his twelve disciples on a mountain, and they had a meeting in a house.

And again in Mark 4, Christ begins to teach by the seaside, and there were gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the ship on the seaside, and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land, and 'he taught them many things,' ... Here you may see again Christ taught by the seaside in a ship.

And again, 'Christ entered into Capernaum, and it was rumored that he was in the house, and many quickly gathered together, insomuch that there was not room to accommodate them; no, not so much as outside the door.' You may see here Christ preached in a house, and unto those who were outdoors. And when Jesus was passed over again by ship, unto the other side, 'many people were gathered unto him,' and 'he was near the sea.' Mark 5:21. Here you may see Christ had a great meeting near the sea.

And Jesus taught his disciples in a house, as you may see, Mark 9:28-33. And also when he came to Capernaum, here you may see how he taught his disciples in that house. Also, Mark 9:31-35. And again Christ taught his disciples in a house.

And as Jesus went, with his disciples, into the towns of Caesaria and Philippi, by the way he 'asked some questions, and taught them many things.' Mark 8:27-34. So here you may see Christ's disciples asked him questions, and he taught them by the way. And Christ sent two of his disciples into the city, and they were to say to the good man of the house, 'The master said, Where is the guest-chamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? And they showed him a large upper room, furnished and prepared, and they made ready the passover; and in the evening he comes with the twelve, and as they sat at meat, Jesus taught them.' Mark 14:12-31. Here you may see Christ and his disciples had a meeting in a house, in an upper chamber, in the evening. And in Luke 1:40, when Mary entered into the house of Zachariah, and saluted Elizabeth, what a heavenly meeting was there when they met together in Zachariah's house, Luke 1:40-56.

And Levi made a great feast in his house, and there was a great company of publicans, and others, that sat down with them, that is, Christ and his disciples; but the scribes and Pharisees, murmured against his disciples, saying, 'Why do you eat and drink with publicans and sinners?' And Jesus answered, and said, 'those who are whole need no physician;' and preached to them in a Levite's house. Luke 5:29-39.

And the shepherds that were in the country of Bethlehem, 'which abode in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night, and they came and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger, because there was no room in the inn; and the shepherds returned, and glorified and praised God for the things which they had heard and seen.' Here you may see the shepherds had a meeting, and met with Christ and his mother, though he was wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Luke 2:8-20.

And again, 'Christ went into a desert place, and the people sought him, and came unto him, and staid with him.' Here you may see Christ and the people had a meeting in the desert. Luke 4:42. And again, Christ taught the people out of Peter's ship. Luke 5:3.

And again, in Luke 5:16-25, 'Christ withdrew himself in the wilderness, and prayed, and it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, there were Pharisees and doctors of the law came out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem,'... 'and they brought a man in a bed, which was taken with the palsy, and because of the multitude they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling in the midst before Jesus, and he healed him.'

Here you may see Christ had a great meeting in a house in the wilderness.

And Christ and his disciples went into the desert of Bethany, and there they had a great meeting of five thousand men, and he 'made them to sit down, and he took the five loaves and two fishes, and looking up to heaven, blessed them, and gave them to his disciples to set before the multitude, and they did all eat, and were all filled, and there were taken up of fragments that remained, twelve baskets.' Here you may see Christ had a great meeting in this desert, where he worked this miracle. Luke 9.

'And Jesus took Peter, and John, and James, and went into a mountain to pray, and the next day, when they were come down the hill, much people met Christ.' Here you may see, in Luke 9, what places Christ prayed in, and had meetings. 'And Jesus went into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God; and when it was day he called unto him his disciples, and he came down with them into a plain, and a great multitude of people, out of all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coasts of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him.' So you may see, here was a great meeting, where Christ stood in the plain, Luke 6:12-49.

And one of the Pharisees requested Christ to go and eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to dinner, and the woman stood at his feet behind him weeping, which was a sinner, and began to wash his feet with her tears, and did kiss his feet, and anoint them with ointment she brought; and

the Pharisees said, This man, if he was a prophet, would have known who, and what manner of woman she was, that touched him.' And you may see how Christ preached to him, and to those who were in the Pharisee's house, from verse 40 to the end, in Luke 7:36- 39. And Christ went through every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. Here again you may see in what places Christ preached. Luke 7:1. And did Jesus not have a meeting at Martha's house? See what he said to her and her sister Mary; 'For Mary sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his words; but Martha was cumbered and careful about many things;' but Christ said, 'Mary had chosen the good part, which should not be taken away from her.' Luke 10:38-42. And when Christ had appointed seventy disciples, he sent them by two and two, and said, 'into whatsoever house you enter, first say peace to the house; and in the same house eating and drinking such things as they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his food or hire. Do not go from house to house.' Luke 10:1-7.

Here you may see, Christ's disciples were to preach in houses. Luke 10:1-12. And Christ taught his disciples to pray. Luke 11:1-4. And Christ went into a house of one of the chief Pharisees, to eat bread on the Sabbath day, and there came a man before him, which had the dropsy, and he healed him. You may see how Christ preached to the lawyers and Pharisees on the Sabbath day, in the Pharisee's house; and he put forth a parable to them, 'Of a certain man that made a great supper, and invited many,' ... 'and they all with one consent began to make excuses, and one said, he had bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go see it,' ... 'And another had bought a yoke of oxen, and he must prove them; and another said, he had married a wife, and therefore could not come. So the servant came and showed his lord these things; then the master of the house being angry, said to his servants, Go quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, maimed, lame and blind. And the servant of the lord said, "It is done as you have commanded, and yet there is room." And the lord said unto the servants, Go you out into the highways and hedges,' ... 'that my house may be filled. I say unto you that none of those men which were invited, shall taste of my supper.' Namely, he that had bought a piece of ground, and he that had bought the oxen, and he that had married the wife, who made excuses, they could not come and taste of his supper, as in Luke 14:16-24.

So here you may see the servants of Christ preached in the streets, lanes, highways, hedges. Did not Christ have a meeting at Zaccheus' house, who was a chief publican? Did not Christ tell him, 'He was the son of Abraham, and this day salvation was come to his house?' And did not Christ preach many things to them, and in parables? Luke 19. And after Christ had risen from the dead, he appeared to two of his disciples, as they were walking to a village called Emmaus, and he opened their understandings, and showed them out of the scriptures, 'that he was the Christ;' and they went to Jerusalem and found the eleven gathered together, and those who were with them, and they told them



how that Jesus Christ was risen; and as they thus spoke, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said, 'Peace be unto you.' And Christ told them 'tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high.' Luke 24:13-49.

Here you may see Christ preached to two of his disciples by the highway side, and in the house, and his disciples and others kept their meetings, and Christ was among them after he was risen from the dead, as well as in their meetings with him before he was crucified. And there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee, and Jesus was called, and his twelve disciples, and the mother of Jesus was there. John 2:1.

Here you may see Jesus was at this marriage meeting, and his disciples through his words and miracles believed on him. And Nicodemus the ruler of the Jews, that came to Jesus by night, and said to him, 'You are a teacher come from God,' ... John 3. Had not Christ and his disciples a meeting with him in the night? And Christ taught him, that he must be born again, before he could see the kingdom of God, or enter into it. And in John 4:6-24 had not Christ a meeting with the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well? And did not he teach her, 'that God was worshipped not at Jerusalem, neither in that mountain where Jacob's well was, but that God is a spirit, and those who worship him, must worship him in spirit and truth?

And did not the disciples marvel at Christ's speaking with, or teaching the woman? And did not the woman leave her water pot, and go into a city of Samaria, and say to the men of that city, 'Come, see a man which has told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ?' And they went out of the city, and came unto him; and through this meeting of Christ with the woman at the mountain of the Samaritans, many of them believed in him. And there lay a great multitude of sick and disabled people at the pool of Bethesda, and there Christ on the Sabbath day, healed a man who had an infirmity thirty-eight years; and therefore the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the Sabbath day. John 5:2-10. And in John 11 did not Christ and his disciples have a meeting in Martha's house, when Lazarus was dead, when the Jews were met together with Mary and Martha? and did not he preach to them in Martha's house? and did not many of the Jews believe on him through his preaching, and raising Lazarus from the dead? John 11:17- 54.

And again, did not Christ and his disciples have another meeting at Bethany at Martha's house, after he had raised Lazarus from the dead? And Lazarus was one that sat at table with Christ and his disciples at supper; and many people of the Jews came not for Christ's sake only, but that they might see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus to death, because by reason of Lazarus' being raised from the dead,



many of the Jews believed in Christ. John 12. And when Jesus went forth with his disciples over the brook Kidron, where was a garden, into which he entered with his disciples, for Jesus frequently resorted there with his disciples; so here you may see, Christ and his disciples frequently had meetings in this garden. And Judas knowing the place where he and his disciples oft resorted, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, comes there with lanterns, torches, and weapons, while he was yet speaking; and Jesus said unto them, 'Whom seek you?' And they said unto him, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' And Jesus said unto them, 'I am he; if you therefore seek me, let those go,' that is, his disciples. Here you may see Christ was taken out of a meeting in the garden, (and while he was yet speaking), by Judas and the officers, and a great multitude with lanterns, torches, swords, and staves. John 18, Mat 26:47.

And the disciples when they came to the Mount of Olives, where Christ did ascend into heaven from them, they went to Jerusalem, and went into an upper room, and these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brethren; and Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and showed them the fulfilling of the scriptures; and this meeting was of about an hundred and twenty, the first meeting after Christ's ascension, in an upper chamber. Acts 1:13-20. And at the time of Pentecost, they were all with one accord in one place, and they were filled with the holy ghost; 'for suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting; and there were dwelling at Jerusalem devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when it was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language, and they were amazed, and were in doubt, and marveled, saying one to another, what does this mean? And others mocked, saying, these men are full of new wine.' Acts 2:1-14.

This meeting, and the new tongues of the holy ghost, confounded the professors, that did not possess the life; but Peter and the eleven apostles stood up and preached to them Christ, (from verse 14 to 41.) and showed to them the fulfilling of the scriptures concerning him; and 'there were converted and added to them about three thousand souls that day; and they continued daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking of bread from house to house, and did eat their meat with gladness, and singleness of heart.' Acts 2.

Here you may see what a wonderful conversion there was at this meeting, in this house.

And Peter and John, and the apostles continued in their preaching; but the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, being grieved that they preached in the name of Jesus, who had risen from the dead, arrested them, and put them in prison; and however, many of them who heard the word,

believed, to about the number of five thousand men. And the next day they had them out of the prison before Ananias the high priest, and the rulers, and elders, and scribes; and Peter and John preached Christ unto them, and said, 'There is no other name given under heaven among men, whereby we must be saved, but the name of Jesus, neither is there any salvation in any other.'

And the priest and the rulers commanded them not to speak at all, nor to preach in the name of Jesus; but Peter and John said unto them, 'Whether is it right in the sight of God, to hearken unto you, more than unto God, judge you; for we cannot but speak the things which we have heard and seen.' So when the rulers had threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them. Acts 4:1-21. So you may see, as the disciples were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead, and laid hands upon them, and put them in hold, and had them before the high priests..

So the disciples of Christ were taken out of their meeting, as they were teaching and preaching to the people, by the priests and captain of the temple, and the Sadducees. Acts 4:1-3. And again, when the apostles were set at liberty, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said and done unto them; and when they heard, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and preached, prayed, and glorified God, and they were filled with the holy ghost, and the place was shaken where they were assembled. Acts 4:23-24,31.

And again, they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch, and the high priest rose up, and all that were with him, with the sect of the Sadducees, and they were filled with indignation, and laid hands on the apostles, and put them in prison; but the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, 'Go stand and speak in the temple to the people, all the words of this life.' Acts 5:20. And then came one and told them, 'The men that you put in prison, stand in the temple, teaching the people.' Then went the captain of the temple, with the officers, and brought them out with violence, and set them before the council; and the high priest asked them, saying, 'Did not we sternly command you, that you should not teach in the name of Jesus?'

But the apostles preached to the council and the high priest; and when they had beaten the apostles, they commanded them, 'that they should preach no more in the name of Jesus,' and let them go: but the apostles answered, and said, 'We ought to obey God rather than men.' But the apostles daily, in the temple and in every house, 'ceased not to preach and teach Jesus Christ.' Here again, you may see the captain and officers brought out the apostles from their meeting, when they were teaching in the temple; and it seems the multitude of believers kept

their meeting with one accord in Solomon's porch, for all the high priests' and the officers' threatening, beating, and imprisoning; yet they ceased not daily to teach and preach Christ Jesus, in the temple and in houses, as Acts 5.

And in Acts 6 Stephen being a man full of faith and power, certain of the synagogue, of the Libertines, disputed with him, and they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke, and they stirred up the people, and elders, and scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council and high priest, and set up false witnesses against him, and put him to death. Acts 6:8-12. Here you may see the work of such libertines and disputers with their false witnesses, high priests, and councils, and false professions, when they cannot resist the power and spirit of God, then they murder.

And Saul made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women, committing them to prison. Acts 8:3. And had not Saul, who was a great outward professor, his authority from the chief priests, to hale, imprison, and disturb the true Christians in their meetings? And was not Philip commanded to preach to the eunuch? And did not he go into the chariot, and preach to him Christ Jesus, and opened to him the scriptures, and converted him? And did Peter not have meeting at Cornelius' house at Caesaria? Did he not call together his relatives and near friends, and said unto Peter, 'We are all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded you of God;' and Peter opened his mouth, and preached Jesus Christ unto them, and converted them. Acts 10:24-34.

Was not this in Cornelius' house, the centurion at Caesaria? And do you think he had not a christian meeting in his house, after he and his friends were converted? And Herod apprehended Peter, and put him in prison; but prayer was made without ceasing of the church for him, and the Lord heard them, and he sent his angel and delivered Peter, and he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John, where many were gathered together, praying. Acts 12. Here you may see, here was a christian meeting in Mary's house, in the night, when they had killed James, and persecuted Peter; but the angel of the Lord smote Herod, the persecutor, and 'he was eaten of worms that he died.'

And when the apostles had gone through the isle unto Paphos, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man, deputy of the country, called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God; but Elymas, the sorcerer, which was with the deputy, withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith; but the Lord struck him blind, and the deputy believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord. And had not Paul and Barnabas a meeting at the deputy's house, for them to hear the word of God? Acts 13:7. And at Antioch, after the reading of the law and prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent unto Paul, and his

company, saying, 'You men and brethren, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, say on.' Acts 13:15.

And here you may see what a large sermon the apostle preached to them. And the apostle went to a colony in Macedonia, and he went out of the city to a river side, where prayer was customarily made, and the apostle sat down, and spoke unto the women by the river side, who resorted there, and a certain woman named Lydia, of the city Thyatira, whose heart the Lord opened, that 'she attended unto things which were spoken by Paul,' and she besought them, saying, 'If you judge me faithful to the Lord, come to my house, and abide there; and she constrained them.' Acts 16:13-15. Here you may see, the apostles had a meeting by the river side; and had they not another in Lydia's house? (Paul and his company), and then the magistrates of that country cast them into prison, ...

And had not Paul and Silvanus a meeting in the prison? And did not they preach the word of the Lord to the jailer, and all who were in his house? Did not they believe in God with all his house? So did they not have a meeting here in the jailer's house? Acts 16:32-33. And they went out of the prison, and went into the house of Lydia again; and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them and departed. Acts 16:40. And here, had not the apostles another christian meeting in Lydia's house?

And Paul, and Silas, and their company, came to Thessalonica; and did not Jason receive them? And the unbelieving Jews, which believed not, moved with envy, with certain lewd fellows, assaulted Jason's house; and they drew Jason, and certain brethren, unto the rulers, crying and saying, 'These are they which have subverted the state of the world.' And when the rulers had taken security of Jason, and of others, they let them go. Acts 17:1-9.

And Paul disputed at Athens, in the synagogue of the Jews, and in the market place, daily; and he stood in the midst of Mars-hill: it was the highest court in Athens where Paul preached to them. Acts 17:22 -33. And Paul came to a man's house, whose name was Justus, one that worshipped God, and Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord, with all his house, and many of the Corinthians hearing, believed; and the apostle continued there a year and six months, preaching the word of God among them. Acts 18:7-11.

And do you think that Paul had not Christian meetings at Crispus' and Justus' house? And the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him before the judgment seat, and they brought him before Gallio, who was deputy of Achaia; and Gallio said to the Jews, 'If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O you Jews! reason would that I should bear with you; but if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look you to it, for I will be no judge of such matters.' And he drove the Jews away from the judgment

seat. Acts 18:14-16. Here you may see, that the heathen governor had more reason and moderation, (to the apostle Paul), than the professing Jews. And Priscilla and Aquila took Apollo unto them, and expounded to him the way of God more perfectly; therefore, had not Priscilla and Aquila a meeting at their house? Acts 18:26.

And Demetrius, the silversmith, made a great uproar, and through him the city was filled with confusion, and said, 'This Paul has persuaded and turned away much people, saying, That they are no gods which are made with hands; and cried out, great was Diana.' And having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, the town-clerk appeased the people, and said, 'You have brought these men here, neither robbers of your churches, nor blasphemers of your goddess; wherefore if Demetrius and the craftsmen, which are with him, have any matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies, let them bring charges against one another; for if you inquire anything concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly;' and said, 'You ought to be quiet, and do nothing rashly.' And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the people. Acts 19:23-41. And here you may see the moderation of the town clerk to the apostles; but Demetrius for love of gain, raised an uproar against Paul and his companions, which was appeased by the town clerk, who showed more moderation and reason than the professing Jews and priests. And Paul disputed daily in the school of one Tyrannus; Acts 19:8-10, and this continued by the space of two years; so that all those who dwelled in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. So here you may see Paul both preached and disputed in a school house.

And Paul and his company came to Troas, and upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together, Paul continued his speech until midnight, and there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together, and there sat a young man in a window, named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep, as Paul was long preaching in an upper chamber, he sunk down with sleep, and fell from the third loft, and was taken up dead; but Paul went down and embraced him, and he was brought to life again, to their comfort. Acts 20:6-12. Here you may see Paul had a night-meeting in a chamber; and would not many professors, without possession, say, he was a *house-meeter*? And again, the apostle said to the christians at Ephesus, 'I have kept nothing back that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house.' Acts 20:20.

Here you may see the apostles taught the Ephesians, from house to house, as well as publicly. And the apostle and his company came to Tyre, and stayed there seven days, finding disciples there; and when they went away, their wives and children brought them out of the city, and Paul kneeled down on the sea-shore, and prayed; so they had a meeting on the sea-shore. Acts 21:3- 5.

And Paul and his company came unto Caesaria, and went to the house of Philip the evangelist; and the same man had four daughters, which did prophesy, and they tarried there many days, and the prophet named Agabus, came to them, and took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, 'Thus said the Holy Ghost, so shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owns this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' And much of it came to pass when Paul came to Jerusalem; for had not the chief captain and his soldiers rescued Paul, and sent him to Caesaria, to Felix, the governor, the Jews and the priests would have destroyed him, as in Acts 21:22-23.

Do you think that the apostle and his company had not a meeting in Philip the evangelist's house, with him and his four daughters, and Agabus and others? Acts 21:8-9. And the city of Jerusalem was moved, and ran together, when Paul came into the temple, and they took Paul and threw him out of the temple, and as they went about to kill him, tidings came to the chief captain, 'that all Jerusalem was in an uproar,' who saved his life, who was more moderate than the professing Jews. And Paul stood upon the stairs of the castle, and preached to the Jews, that Jesus was Christ; as you may see, Acts 21:30-40.

And Ananias, the high priest, with the elders, informed Felix, the governor, against Paul, and said, 'We have found this man, a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of Nazarites.' Acts 24. Here you may see true christianity, and preaching the gospel of Christ Jesus, is called a sect and sedition, by the professors of the scriptures without possession.

And when Paul was brought before Festus, he being willing to do the Jews a pleasure, said to Paul, 'Will you go up to Jerusalem, there to be judged of these things before me,' (that is, the things that the Jews accused him of), then Paul said, 'I stand at Caesar's judgment-seat, and where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, you know it very well.' Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, said unto Paul, 'To Caesar you have appealed, and unto Caesar you shall go.' Acts 25.

And Paul preached a brave sermon to king Agrippa, that Agrippa said unto Paul, 'Almost you have persuaded me to be a christian.' Acts 26:28. And was not that in a house? And then they sent Paul away by shipping, towards Rome, and the ship touched at Sidon, and Julius, a centurion of Augustus's band, courteously entertained Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends at Sidon, to refresh himself; and had not he a meeting there with his friends? And Paul admonished the people in the ship, and the centurion believed Paul more than the master of the ship, as in Acts 27:22. And there was in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls; and had not he a meeting in the ship there? And when they were cast upon Melita, the chief man of the Island, whose name was Publius, received

them, and lodged them courteously three days; and when Paul came to Rome, the centurion allowed Paul to dwell by himself with a soldier, who kept him; and Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, 'preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concerned the Lord Jesus, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.' Acts 28:16, 30-31.

Here you may see Paul kept a christian meeting in his own hired house at Rome, and preached in it; so that they were more kind to him than the Jews, that haled him out of the temple, and would have killed him. Acts 21:30-31. And the apostle said, 'Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my helpers in Christ; likewise greet the church that is in their house.' Rom 16:3-5, 1 Cor 16:19. So here you may see the church was in Aquila's and Priscilla's house; their house was a meeting house for the true christians.

And the apostle in his epistle to the Colossians, said, 'Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.' Col 4:15. Here you may see the church was in Nymphas's house; and they met in a house, and did not call the house a church. Paul's epistle 'To Philemon, and Apphia, and Archippus, ... and to the church which is in your house. Philemon 1:1-2.' So here you may see the church of Christ was in Philemon's house. Phil 2.

And John writes to the seven churches in Asia, and he said to every church, 'He that has an ear, let him hear what the spirit said to the churches.' So it is the spirit of God that speaks to the churches; and the churches are not the outward temple or steeple-house, but the people of God; and the people of God are the church, who are to hear what the spirit of God said to them. So those who have a spiritual ear, are to hear what the spirit said.

## POSTSCRIPT

After Christ was risen, he said unto Mary, 'Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended unto my Father; but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God and your God.' And she came and told the disciples, that he had spoken these things unto her; and the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut, where the disciples were assembled, came Jesus, and stood in the midst, and said, 'Peace be unto you.' John 20:17-19, Mark 16:9-14. You may see Christ met with his disciples in the evening, on the first day of the week, who rose on the same first day. So he had a meeting with the disciples in a house the same first day he rose, and not in the Jews' temple or synagogues.

And the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 'Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem'. Jer 2:2. And the word of the Lord came again to Jeremiah, saying,



'Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim, and say, hear the word of the Lord, you that enter in at the gates to worship the Lord, amend your ways and doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.' Jer 7:1-3. Here you may see Jeremiah preached in the gate of the temple, which is called the Lord's house.

And the Lord said to Jeremiah, 'Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word.. Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah, that sits upon the throne of David, you, and your servants, and your people that enter in by these gates, thus said the Lord, execute you judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoil out of the hand of the oppressor; do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless and the widow; neither shed innocent blood, ...; but if you will not hear these words, I swear by myself, said the Lord, that this house shall become a desolation.' Jer 22:1-5. Here you may see Jeremiah went and preached at the king's house.

Thus said the Lord to Jeremiah, 'Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord's house, all the words that I command you to speak unto them, diminish not a word.' Jer 26:2. Here you may see Jeremiah preached in the court of the Lord's house.

And the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 'Go into the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers.' Jer 35:1-9. And here you may see by the obedience of the Rechabites, Jeremiah condemns the disobedience of the Jews, and God blessed the Rechabites for their obedience. And here you may see Jeremiah preached to the household of the Rechabites in the chamber. So here is no strange thing to preach in houses, chambers, schools, highways, hedges, streets, mountains, ships, deserts and wildernesses, in gates, and in the temple-doors, the law and gospel, though those who did so were cast into prisons, as Jeremiah in the prison, and in the dungeon; and the apostles were cast into prison, and into the stocks, for preaching Christ Jesus, who preached him in such places, as before, and many for preaching Christ in such places, have been since cast into prisons and dungeons, by those who are called christians, who could not own their synagogue and temple-worship, but worship God in spirit and truth; which worship Christ set up above sixteen hundred years ago.

***George Fox***

*Kingston, the 23rd of the 5th Month, 1684*