

20220828 – CHURCH FUNCTIONS AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday AM – Acts 2:40-47

I. THAT CHURCH FOLLOWED GOD'S ORDER

- A. A Church is a CALLED-OUT ASSEMBLY of baptized believers who have covenanted themselves together to do the Lord's work.
 - 1. The Lord did not institute His Church on the Day of Pentecost
 - 2. This church at Jerusalem was in action in ACTS 1
 - a. They kept church rolls, held votes, held prayer meetings
 - b. But He did not institute it there
 - 3. This is an example of a church following the Great Commission ACTS 1:8
 - a. But Jesus did NOT institute His Church there
 - b. If no church on Olivet, then the Great Commission died with them
 - 4. People say the Lord instituted His church in MATT. 16:18 – “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
 - a. They mistake the meaning of will (not future but CONTINUING)
 - b. The Lord did not institute His church there
 - 5. His first church began when He called out to two fishermen named Peter and Andrew in MATT. 4:19 – “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
 - a. Two BAPTIZED believers, by the way, we know from John 1:40
 - b. They were baptized believers the Lord called out to follow Him
- B. What did they do on the Day of Pentecost?
 - 1. They preached Salvation (vs. 40)
 - a. Peter didn't preach good ideas or psychology
 - b. He preached Jesus and HIM ALONE, might to Save
 - c. They didn't have a rock concert or a bingo night
 - d. They held up the only name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved!
 - 2. They performed Baptism (vs. 42)
 - a. All who believed, who repented and trusted Christ got Saved
 - b. And all those that believed (gladly received) got Baptized
 - c. The purpose of Baptism is right in the verse (ADDED UNTO)
 - d. Baptism makes church members – not converts!
 - 3. They promulgated Doctrine (vs. 42)
 - a. Doctrine is not a dirty word – it means “teaching the right way”
 - b. Jesus taught DOCTRINE, He taught, and the listeners were ASTONISHED AT HIS DOCTRINE (MATT. 7:28, 22:33, MARK 1:22, 11:18, and LUKE 4:32)
 - c. Get excited when a preacher says, “We're studying doctrine”
 - d. That's what Jesus preached, after all!

- C. They had fellowship because they agreed together
 - 1. AMOS 3:3 – “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”
 - 2. They continued STEADFASTLY – unmovably, unstintingly, unchangingly
 - 3. When was the last time we were steadfast?

II. THAT CHURCH FEARED GOD’S WORKING

- A. God was working among them
 - 1. Many signs and wonders were done by the Apostles
 - 2. We think of the lame made to walk; demons cast out, tongues
 - 3. But we have many signs and wonders today!
 - a. We have the finished, inerrant, infallible Word of God
 - b. We see SOULS SAVED and lives made NEW
 - c. You ask my High School teachers if they thought I would ever become a Baptist preacher – that’s a MIRACLE!
- B. They REVERENCED HIM (honored, revered, worshipped)
 - 1. It says they “feared” Him, which is simply an older English meaning
 - 2. He’s my Father, my God, my King, my Savior, my Lord
 - a. He deserves my honor, my love, and my devotion
 - b. Jesus Christ bought my Salvation with His own blood
 - c. God the Son took my place on that Cross
 - 3. Oh! Don’t we owe Him our every gratitude?
- C. Churches today should fear God
 - 1. There’s a complacency today toward the things of God
 - 2. “It’s okay, I’ll just do it my way, God will understand...”
 - a. Bringing worldly things into the church
 - b. Bringing in rock music and calling it “worship”
 - c. Bringing in sales tactics and calling it evangelism
 - d. Bringing in unscriptural teachers and calling it progressive
 - 3. Be careful!
 - a. I’m not afraid that God is vindictive and hateful
 - b. I’m not afraid that I could lose my Salvation and go to Hell
 - c. I’m afraid of dishonoring my SAVIOR! Of displeasing God!
 - d. I LOVE Him! He Saved me! I want to do what makes Him pleased!

III. THAT CHURCH FELLOWSHIPED IN GOD’S LOVE

- A. The Bible says they had all things common (vs. 44-45)
 - 1. This is not “communism” as some liberal try to teach
 - 2. This is simply taking care of one another – they didn’t live in a commune
 - a. People were there representing over 16 nations
 - b. They had come to the feast and found instead Salvation
 - c. They had joined that church at Jerusalem by Baptism
 - d. And now they were staying to be taught doctrine

- e. Which means they needed money and food and shelter
- 3. The members of the church there SHARED in Christian Hospitality
- B. This was brought on by the spirit of REVIVAL that had broken out
 - 1. It was Holy Spirit filled revival that cared for one another
 - 2. This was NOT giving to the community-at-large, but within the church
 - 3. They were taking care of other members (all members are equal!)
 - 4. When we focus on the Savior instead of Self, we become unselfish!
- C. We must distinguish this from giving to the poor and needy
 - 1. Jesus made that same distinction in MATT. 26:11 – “For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.”
 - 2. We are to help others, we are to be neighborly, we are to give
 - a. But not haphazardly or ill-advisedly
 - b. We must be good stewards of that which the Lord has given us
 - c. Be wise!
 - 3. This passage deals with needs within rather than without

IV. THAT CHURCH FUNCTIONED TO GOD’S GLORY

- A. They had one purpose – to glorify God (46-47)
 - 1. They were in ONE ACCORD, in other words, they were all agreed
 - a. They agreed to PRAISE GOD
 - b. They had a singleness of heart – no distractions or sidetracks
 - c. And everything they did REFLECTED that heart
 - i. When they went daily to the temple, they praised God
 - ii. When they broke bread from house to house, they praised God
 - iii. When they ate their meat, they praised God
 - 2. Everything they did revolved around the praise of God
 - 3. It stuck out EVERYWHERE; they couldn’t keep it a secret and didn’t try!
- B. People all around them SAW their single-minded devotion to God (vs. 47)
 - 1. It was a WITNESS of what God had done in their lives
 - 2. People NOTICED it and it said this church had “favor with all the people”
 - 3. It made people want to know more
 - a. And this church told them about Jesus
 - b. It was what they wanted to do
 - c. “I got saved and you can too – Ask me how!”
 - 4. People should line up to ask us why we are so joyful
- C. What happens when God’s people give out God’s Gospel?
 - 1. People get saved!
 - 2. ROM. 10:14 – “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”
 - a. We shouldn’t a sour bunch (weaned on pickle juice and fed alum breakfast lunch and dinner)
 - b. We are called Salt and Light

- c. Salt witnesses to the meat the moment you sprinkle it on
- d. Light illuminates the darkness the moment you turn on the switch
- 3. To many Christians are staying in the shaker!
 - a. Too many have run down batteries!
 - b. Get out of the shaker! Charge up your batteries!

V. THAT CHURCH FOUND GOD'S BLESSING

- A. God blessed the church and added unto it (vs. 47)
 - 1. People were being saved and baptized into membership DAILY
 - 2. They went from 120 to 3120 and then to a larger number 25,000 or more
 - 3. How did they grow? From witnessing!
- B. They gave praise to the right person – not Peter – but GOD ALONE!
- C. You can get saved too, just like these people in Jerusalem did
 - 1. They heard the Gospel
 - 2. The Death, the Burial, and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - 3. They turned from their self and their sin in Repentance
 - 4. And looked to Jesus with an eye of Faith
- D. Be Saved Today