THE CHURCH AFTER PENTECOST

ACTS 2:42-47

Introduction:

A. We have seen the church before Pentecost
   1) John the Baptist had prepared the material
   2) Jesus had formed them. They were waiting.

B. We have seen the church on Pentecost
   1) They were immersed in Spirit
   2) They spoke the truths of God in "tongues"
   3) Bystanders wondered and inquired
   4) Peter explained and they received the truth

C. What happened after these experiences?
   1) Did they immediately begin to witness?
   2) Did they begin a building program?

I. They Did What They Should Have Done     Vs. 42

A. "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostle's doctrine"
   1) "continued" = proskartereo = "to be strong or firm towards anything",
      "to endure or persevere in or with", "to be continually in, with, or
      near any person or thing"
   2) "doctrine" = didache = "teaching", "process of teaching", "thing taught"

B. .......and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers."
   1) "fellowship" = koinonia = "act of partaking", "sharing"
   2) "breaking of bread" = "fracturing of the loaf"
   3) "prayers" = proseuche = "speaking out to"
II. They Felt What They Should Have Felt       Vs. 43

A. "And fear came upon every soul"
   1) "fear" = phobos =
   2) We must never lose our fear of God!

B. "......and many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles."
   1) "wonders" = teras = "a supernatural occurrence"
   2) "signs" = semeion = "an ensign", "identification"

III. They Lived Like They Should Have Lived       Vs. 44-47

A. They shared what they had       Vs. 44
   1) "And all that believed were together, and had all things common"
   2) "common" = koinos = "pertaining equally to all"
   3) They were not Communists!

B. They sold what they had to help others       Vs. 45
   1) "And sold their possessions and goods and parted them to all men, as every man had need"
   2) "sold" = eipipraskon = imper. = "they sold from time to time"
      Linguistic Key to N.T.
   3) "possessions" = ktema = "personal property"
   4) "parted" = diamerixo = "to separate into parts", To divide out to each person from a common source. This probably developed into the Acts 6 problem.

C. They went to church everyday       Vs. 46
   1) "And they, continuing daily with one accord, in the temple,
   2) "continuing daily" = proskartereo = "to be continually in", "to be strong or firm towards anything", "to persevere"
   3) "temple" = ierw = The temple in Jerusalem

D. They were hospitable toward one another       Vs. 46
   1) "and breaking bread from house to house,
   2) "they broke their bread together in their homes"
E. They were thankful and happy    Vs. 46-47

1) "did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart; Praising God,"
2) "gladness" = agalliasis = "exhultation", "rejoicing"
3) "singleness" = aphelotes = "not stony", "level", "simplicity", "neatness", "plainness"
4) "praising" = aineo = "to tell or speak of", "to speak in praise of"

F. They earned the respect of others    Vs. 47

1) "having favour with all the people"
2) "favour" = charis = "grace", "a pleasing work", "beauty of speech", "respect", "homage"
3) "people" = laos = "people collectively"

IV. People Were Saved    Vs. 47

A. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"

1) "added" = prostithemi = "to set, place or lay towards or in addition to",
2) "church" = to auto = "together"
3) "the ones being saved day by day"

B. This is not, "a recipe for success"

1) God does not give us one in the Bible
2) He commands us to do by faith His will
3) He saves, He adds to His body

C. There were no, "incentives" offered

1) The church must stand or fall on it's commitment to the truth
2) If this doesn't work, we will fail in the long run

D. Other churches in later ages did what this church did and suffered greatly

1) Suffering may be the result of being faithful to God
2) Later these people suffered and eventually had to forsake Jerusalem.
   We seldom point this out in our sermons.
E. What is an adequate measure of success?

1) In anything?  Business
2) As a parent?  Children
3) As a church?  Getting people in or keeping them out?