

## 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 loose our fear of God!

B. ".....and many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles."

- 1) "wonders" = teras = "a supernatural occurrance"
- 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" = epipraskon = imper. = "they sold from time to time"  
Linguistic Key to N.T.
- 3) "possessions" = ktēma = "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 committment 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?