

The Early Church – Establishment of Acts 2:1-4

Introduction:

As we look at the early church, we need to remember that we should be a part of that church. There is no other church that Christ established.

Today, we will look at the importance of the New Testament church; and then we will look at two qualities of the church that made it truly the New Testament church.

I. Notice why this lesson is important for us to understand.

- A. It is important to know where we began as the church.
 - 1. Question that I was asked at Maple Court this week:
 - a. “When did your church begin?”
 - b. She was not asking about “Ridge Avenue;” but rather she was asking about the foundation of the Lord’s church.
 - 2. We need to know when and where we begin so that we can have a pattern to look to understand what to do.
 - 3. However, we need to be careful not to leave it at that; because all denominations will say that they began on the Day of Pentecost.
 - a. However, if we can look to secular history and discover when our “theology” was first taught, we are wrong.
 - b. The church to which we belong must have its beginning at the Day of Pentecost.
- B. The church is important because the saved are added to the church.
 - 1. **Acts 2:47** - And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
 - a. It is God that adds to the church, not man (we cannot be voted in).
 - b. **I Cor. 3:6** - I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.
 - 2. If the saved are added to the church, then it stands to reason that we must be a part of the church.
- C. The church is important because there is only one church.
 - 1. God only intended to establish one church.
 - a. **Mt. 16:18** - And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 - b. Remember, God will add to the church those who are saved (not churches).
 - 2. It is wrong to have divisions of the body.
 - a. This is whether it is in a local congregation or by denominations.
 - b. **I Cor. 1:10-13** - Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. {11} For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of

Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. {12} Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." {13} Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

- c. **I Cor 12:25** (In speaking of the church, Paul says) - that there should be no schism in the body.

II. It was predicted that the church would be established.

- A. It was predicted throughout the Bible that God would establish His church.
 - 1. **Dan. 2:44** - And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.
 - 2. Jesus says that He was going to establish His church.
 - a. **Mt. 16:18** - And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 - b. **Mk. 9:1** - And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."
 - 3. The idea is that the church was not Plan B.
 - a. God had always intended to establish the church; just as He had always planned on sending His Son to save us from our sins.
- B. Isaiah gets very specific with his prediction of the Lord's church.
 - 1. **Is. 2:1-3** - The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. {2} Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. {3} Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
 - 2. This prophecy was fulfilled in Acts 2.
 - a. Time
 - 1) **Is. 2:2** - "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days..."
 - 2) **Acts 2:17** - And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh.
 - b. Place
 - 1) **Is. 2:3** - "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."
 - 2) Fulfilled in the command of Jesus.
 - a) **Lk. 24:46-49** - Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, {47} and that repentance and remission of sins should be

preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. {48} And you are witnesses of these things. {49} Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

- b) **Acts 1:4, 8** - And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; {8} But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- c) **Acts 2:5** - And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

c. People

- 1) **Is. 2:2** - “and all nations shall flow to it.”
- 2) Fulfilled in Acts 2.
 - a) **Acts 2:5** - And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
 - b) **Acts 2:8-11** - "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? {9} Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, {10} Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, {11} Cretans and Arabs-- we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

d. Event

- 1) **Is. 2:2-3** - Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. {3} Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 2) The entire chapter of Acts deals with the foundation of the Lord's church.
- 3) **I Tim. 3:14-15** - These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; {15} but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

III. The early church was established with a great price.

- A. The church was bought with the blood of Christ.
1. Notice the following Scriptures.
 - a. **Acts 20:28** - Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
 - b. **Eph. 5:25-27** - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, {26} that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, {27} that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
 2. This church was bought with the most valuable price that could be paid.
 - a. **Eph. 1:7** - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
 - b. **Col. 1:14** - in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
 - c. **I Pet. 1:18-19** - knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, {19} but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
 - d. **Rev. 1:5** - To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
 3. It is very interesting that not only did the blood of Christ provide the atonement that we needed, but it also bought the church that He came to establish.
 - a. This is because the two go hand in hand.
- B. Because of the great price that was paid, Christ is (and always will be) the head of the church, which is His body.
1. **Eph. 1:22-23** - And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, {23} which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
 2. **Eph. 5:23** - For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.
 3. **Col. 1:18** - And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
- C. It is obvious that the church in Jerusalem began with the proper head.
1. They waited in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit descended upon them (remember this is where Jesus – the head – told them to stay).
 2. The Holy Spirit was given to the (it was promised by Jesus – the head).
 3. Peter's sermon (**Acts 2:14-36**) is all about Jesus – the head.
 4. They continued in the apostles doctrine (**Acts 2:42** – remember that it came directly from Christ – **Mt. 28:19-20**).

Conclusion:

We must make sure that we are a part of the New Testament church.