

THE CHURCH – 1

A Movement Not a Monument

"If you should find the perfect church without one fault or smear, for goodness sake, don't join that church. You'll spoil the atmosphere. If you should find the perfect church where all anxieties cease, then pass it by lest joining it you mar the masterpiece. If you should find the perfect church, then don't you ever dare to tread upon such holy ground. You'd be a misfit there. But since no perfect church exists made of imperfect men, then let's cease looking for that church and love the church we're in. Of course, it's not a perfect church. That's simple to discern. But you and I and all of us could cause the tide to turn. So, let's keep working in our church until the Resurrection. And then we each will join that church without an imperfection." – Mavis Williams

Acts 2:40-47 (ESV) And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1. The Church _____ to the Lord.

Acts 2:47 ...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved

Acts 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Acts 5:14 (ESV) And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

Romans 8:30 (ESV) And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Ephesians 2:1 And you He has made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins.

2. We have a _____ to play.

Acts 2:38 (ESV) And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:40 (ESV) And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

- _____ evangelism.
- _____ evangelism.
- _____ evangelism.

3. God _____ us toward His people.

Acts 2:47 (ESV) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1 Timothy 3:15 ...the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and the ground of truth.

Psalms 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

Psalms 27:4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

4. God uses the church to continue our _____.

Acts 2:42-46 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul. Many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart."

- **A _____ church.**

- A _____ church.
- A _____ church.
- A _____ church
- A _____ church.

2 Corinthians 3:18 "We are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

5. We become an _____, _____, _____ church.

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number *day by day* those who were being saved.

"Christianity was supremely a lay movement, spread by informal missionaries. The spontaneous outreach of the total Christian community gave immense impetus to the movement from the very outset." – Michael Green, *Evangelism in the Early Church*

Acts 4:4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

Acts 4:32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul...

Acts 5:14 "and believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women."

- The early church were saved souls wanting more souls saved.

"The church is a place where lives are changed. Attitudes get changed. Destinies get changed. Discouraged people cheer up. Dishonest people fess up. Sour people sweeten up. Closed people open up. Gossipers shut up. Lukewarm people get fired up. And most of all, Jesus gets lifted up."

