

Facts About The Church

Part Three

Acts 2:47

Introduction:

1. The word “church” comes from the Greek word *ecclesia* (ἐκκλησία) which means, “those who are called out of” or “those who are summoned.”
2. A good way to learn the meaning of a biblical word or concept is to observe how it is used throughout Scripture.
3. The word “church” is first used in Matthew 16:18-19.
 - a. The Church is built by (and belongs to) Christ.
 - b. The Church is built upon Christ.
 - c. The Church will overcome death.
 - d. The Church is the Kingdom of Christ.
 - e. The Church is guided by the doctrine of Christ.
4. The second use of the word “church” is in Matthew 18:17.
 - a. The Church is a congregation of people.
 - b. The Church is ordained to teach.
 - c. The Church is designed to discipline.
5. The third use of the word “church” is in Acts 2:47...
 - I. The Church Is Maintained by the Lord
 - A. *“The Lord added to the church.”*
 - B. Because the church is built by, belongs to, and is governed by the authority of Christ, He is the One who adds to it.
 1. The Lord calls through the Gospel (2:39; 2 Thes. 2:14).
 2. The saved are added to the Lord (5:14).
 3. The Lord removes a church’s candlestick (Rev. 2:5).
 4. The Lord removes one from the Book of Life (Rev. 3:5; 22:19).
 5. Thus, the church is maintained by the Lord.
 - C. Some important implications of this teaching are...
 1. One cannot join the church of Christ.
 2. One cannot be refused from the church of Christ.
 - II. The Church Is Comprised of the Saved
 - A. *“The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”*
 - B. Obeying God’s plan of salvation results in one’s being added to the church.
 1. They heard the Gospel (2:37).
 2. They believed the Gospel (2:37).
 3. They repented of their sins (2:38).
 4. They were baptized for the remission of sins (2:38, 41).
 5. Upon being saved they were added to the church (2:41, 47).

- C. Some important implications of this teaching are...
 - 1. Salvation cannot be separated from church membership.
 - 2. Every saved person is in the church.

- III. The Church Is Faithful in Obedience
 - A. *"And they continued steadfastly..."*
 - B. Obeying the Gospel was merely the first step in living the Christian life.
 - C. Members of the church remain faithful in their continual obedience to the Word of God.
 - 1. Faithful in the Word (John 8:31-32).
 - 2. Faithful in fellowship (1 John 1:7).
 - 3. Faithful in worship (Acts 20:7).
 - 4. Faithful in prayer (1 Thes. 5:17).
 - D. Some important implications of this teaching are...
 - 1. "Once saved, always saved" is not Bible doctrine.
 - 2. Continual salvation depends upon continual faithfulness.
 - 3. Faithfulness to the church is faithfulness to Christ.

- IV. The Church Is Filled with Unity
 - A. *"...Continuing daily with one accord..."*
 - B. The early church worked at and sacrificed for unity.
 - 1. They continued in the same teaching.
 - 2. They were willing to sell their possessions to help others.
 - 3. They associated with one another.
 - 4. They labored for unity (Eph. 4:1-6).
 - C. Some important implications of this teaching are...
 - 1. Biblical unity is not merely union.
 - 2. True unity demands great effort.
 - 3. A divided church does not please the Christ.

Conclusion: *Don't you want to be a part of the church described in the Bible?
Aren't you blessed to know about the church that Jesus built?*