

# CHARACTERISTICS OF A BIBLICAL CHURCH ACTS 1

Text:

Introduction:

The church the only institution organized by the Lord Jesus Christ while on earth. I believe in the local church. Christ never organized anything outside of the local church. He never organized a board for missions, a fellowship for pastors, or a denominational headquarters for churches. He only established the church.

He established the Church, and by the way it is His church. He gave himself for the church and He empowered the church.

I believe that everything that is done for the cause of Christ should be done through a local New Testament Church; a biblical church.

Notice the Characteristics of a Biblical Church

# 1. CONVERTED

(Acts 1:5) "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

- A. A Biblical church has only members that have been saved.
- B. Becoming a church member doesn't make one saved.
- C. There is one way to Heaven and it is not through the church, the baptistery, or through our own efforts, it is through Christ.

# 2. COMMISSIONED

(Acts 1:8-9) "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. {9} And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."

This was given to the believers who made up this first church and has been passed to every Biblical church today.

A. We have a promise. (shall receive)

B. We have the purpose (be witnesses)

1. The spirit was given for this purpose, not to cause people to respond and react in uncontrolled ways.

C. We have the places (Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, uttermost part)

### **3. CONTINUED**

A. Continued to pray

(Acts 1:14) "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

B. Continued with sound doctrine

(Acts 2:42) "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

C. Continued teaching and preaching

(Acts 15:35) "Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also."

## 4. COURAGEOUS

(Acts 4:8-13) "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, {9} If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; {10} Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. {11} This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. {12} Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. {13} Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

(Acts 4:23-31) "And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. {24} And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: {25} Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? {26} The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and

against his Christ. {27} For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, {28} For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. {29} And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, {30} By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. {31} And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

(Acts 9:27) "But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus."

(Acts 9:29) "And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him."

(Acts 14:3) "Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands."

(Acts 18:26) "And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."

(Acts 19:8) "And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God."

## **5. COMMITTED**

(Acts 7:54-60) "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. {55} But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, {56} And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. {57} Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, {58} And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. {59} And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. {60} And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

A. It takes little today for people to quit.

1. Discouragement
2. Distractions
3. Disgruntles

## **6. COMPASSION AND CONCERN**

(Acts 9:26-29) "And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. {27} But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. {28} And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. {29} And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him."

- A. We need to be concerned for the salvation of the lost.
- B. We need to be compassionate with the convert.
- C. We need to encourage those seeking to serve the Lord.

## 7. CLOVE

(Acts 11:23) "Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord."

A. We too should have a purpose.

B. We too should cleave unto the Lord.

Close:

A biblical church is one that is made up of converts.

This church cannot save you, the baptistery cannot save you, and you cannot save yourself by doing more good than evil.

A biblical church is one that is commissioned.

A biblical church is one that continues in sound doctrine, and praying, as well as teaching and preaching.

A biblical church is one that is courageous.

A biblical church is one that is committed, no matter of the persecution or opposition.

A biblical church is one that has compassion and concern.

A biblical church is one that cleaves to the Lord.