

THE DOCTRINE OF THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH ACTS 2

Text: Acts 2:41-42

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⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Introduction:

It is not our work to build the church. Though I believe that there are some men used in the destruction of local churches, I do not believe that men build the church.

It is our work to obey the Lord, and its the Lord's work to give the increase. Our work is entirely the work of obedience. We need to know the Bible and obey what God has told us to do.

The Lord said, "I will build my church in Matthew 16:18. He did not say that I will build your church or that you will build my church. He said, I will build my church."

Read text Acts 2:41-42

The Bible states that they continued in the Apostles doctrine. This evening we are dealing with the doctrine of the first century church. Is it possible that we can still have the same doctrine that the first century church had? The answer is absolutely.

God's Word liveth and abideth forever, and it's the sole authority for our faith and practice. We can know the doctrine of the first century church and we can continue in that doctrine in this present hour.

The Word of God tells us that we are to consider seriously our responsibility in the house of God.

1 Tim. 3:15

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

We learn that from the truths of God's Word.

The only thing that we can pass from one generation to the next in God's work is truth, not experience. And truth is expressed in words. Paul said to Timothy,

2 Tim. 3:10-11

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, [11] Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at

Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Note the top of Paul's list is doctrine. Doctrine means our teaching. The Lord has left the church with two things. He has left us with doctrine and He has left us with Ordinances. Ordinances are things that He has ordered. Doctrine is our beliefs and teachings. Paul said to Timothy, I have spent enough time with you so that you have fully known my doctrine.

We get our doctrine from the Bible, God's Word.

Again Paul in his letter to Timothy he states:

2 Tim. 4:1-4

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; [2] Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. [3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; [4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

He warned that the time would come when men would not endure sound doctrine. Many today have de-emphasized doctrine. They say that doctrine is not

important but rather what is important is our love and fellowship.

May I remind each of us this evening; Anything that we attempt to build that is not built on truth is not of God.

Notice with me this evening.

1. CHRIST HAS GIVEN US A BODY OF DOCTRINE

Acts 2:1

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

A. What Christ said of His doctrine

John 7:16-17

Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. [17] If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

B. It is vital that we do not change His doctrine

2. CORRUPTING INFLUENCES ARE ALWAYS AT WORK

The Lord warned about these corrupting influences. He mentions three types of leaven in His ministry.

Matthew 16:6

Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

What are these?

A. Leaven of the Pharisees

Luke 12:1

In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

B. Leaven of the Sadducees

Matthew 22:23

The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

1. False teaching or doctrine

The third mention is found in Mark

Mark 8:15

And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

C. The leaven of Herod - worldliness

Many today are incorporating the ways of the world to attempt the work of God.

3. CONTENTION SOMETIMES ARISES EVEN AMONG BRETHERN

Galatians 2:8-14

(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) [9] And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. [10] Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do. [11] But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. [12] For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. [13] And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. [14] But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do

the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

A. We all want to get along, but truth must never be sacrificed.

B. We must love God's approval more than the approval of men.

C. Our faith is a treasured heritage, not a contemporary experiment.

1. Some are always trying something new.

4. CONTENDING FOR DOCTRINAL TRUTH MUST BE DONE IN EVERY GENERATION.

Jude 1:1-3

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: [2] Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

[3] Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

A. What has happened to the sacred?

B. Where is the reverence?

C. Whatever happened to sin and the preaching of its consequences?☒

Close:

If you were to ask many after leaving a service what happened, they would state that they had a good time or some type of experience. But if you asked them what they learned many would be speechless.

What are we going to give the next generation? What are you going to give you children and your grandchildren?

I hope we give them the truth.

I hear many times parents say things like this. We have to take our kids somewhere else so that they can get something. GET WHAT?

The church has traded truth for pleasure and has become a great harm to a hurting world.

There is nothing worse than a generation of children with no faith in the true and living God. The church is not a social club but rather a place where truth is proclaimed.