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The Church 01 (Sermon Outlines)

Jim Bill McInteer

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HOW DID THE CHURCH FACE A MOST SERIOUS TASK?

Acts 14:21-23

- I. When Important tasks come to a church, it needs to summons all its spiritual powers.
- II. No task is more vital to the future than the choice of leadership.
- III. Surely there is a pattern in the NT for us to follow - the purpose of this lesson is twofold:
 - A. Discover it.
 - B. Follow it.
- IV. Our text is Acts 14:21-23.
 - A. It was the retracing of the 1st missionary journey - Derbe, Lystra, Iconium & Antioch.
 1. Outward bound - converting.
 - V. 21 "Preach the gospel to that city"
 - V. 21 "Had taught many"
 - a.) End result of gospel is to make disciples.
 - b.) Work was successful - many.
 - c.) Felt the heavy hand of persecution.
 2. Homeward bound - confirming.
 - a.) Joined - convert & confirm.
 - b.) Courage to go back to storms & stones of Lystra
 - c.) Why go back to where you were just kicked out
 - (1) Magistrates served only 1 yr. - maybe they were now out of office.
 - (2) Young disciples needed encouragement.
 - (3) Church needed elders.
 - d.) Came to confirm.
 - (1) Strengthen.
 - (2) Avoided open preaching on return trip, rather

devote energies to confirmation & organization.

(3) Small things can distress new converts - so confirm.

(4) Plant & root.

2 Tim. 1:2 "To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace.) Came to exhort to continue in the faith.

(1) Faith is Christianity.

(2) Urge to faithfulness.

(3) Faith - subjective or objective - feeling & trust or substance of what believed.

(4) No danger equal to peril of losing Jesus.

(f) Came for truth that thru tribulation we enter Kingdom.

(1) Path is one of tribulation.

(2) Both tribulation & Kingdom are current realities

(3) Paul could speak c authority about tribulation.

(4) When trouble comes, know where you stand.

(5) Kingdom is the rule of God in our lives - not our own rule.

(6) Trouble will show who is ruler in your life.

(7) Kingdom implies social not solitary existence.

(8) Present & personal pronoun c tribulation.

2 Tim. 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Chr

(9) Courage is shown in bearing trials - all the more when you know they are coming. It's forecast

Gal. 4:29 "But *persecuted him that was born after* as then he that was born after the fles

(10.) Paul perfectly honest c people - they will suffer.

(11.) "Jesus did not come to make life easy, but to

make men great."

B. He came organizing.

1. Ordained elders in every church.

a.) 1st mention of elders; 6 NT words - elder, bishop, presbyter, pastor, shepherd, steward.

b.) It was a plurality.

c.) Ordain.

(1) Appoint by "show of hands".

(2) Method not told. Boles, "Any method which promotes unity & does not violate a principle may be used."

chosen of the churches

(3) Ordain also 2 Cor. 8:19.

(4) Apostles appointed those church elected.

(5) Concurrence of people required for elders appointed.

(6) Show of hands literally but had come to mean a choice in general w/o reference to means, thus not popular voting.

Dative of pronoun

d.) Church not 3 yr. old.

Shows mutual help

(1) Men appointed quickly.

(2) Babes could soon build up others in the faith.

(3) Shows confidence in men.

(4) Appointed on 2nd visit.

(5) Paul called the church:

"weak"

"base"

"despised"

"foolish"

(6) Chr. lived in a fellowship.

2. Pray - Fast - Commend.

a.) Prayer surely in order.

- 1.) Serves as preparation for solemn work.
- 2.) Jesus praying before Peter's confession.

Lu. 9:18 "And it came to pass as he was alone prayin

b.) Fasted.

- (1) No formal abstinence from food proclaimed by Lord or apostles.
- (2) Approved devise for deepening spirituality.
- (3) No reason not to do it today.
- (4) Commit what is very precious to the keeping of another.

c.) Commend to Lord

- 1.) Jesus - not God.
- 2.) Faith in Jesus & love of brethren seen.
- 3.) Give glory to God & not self.

C. Prayer - utter dependence on God
Fast - utter denial of liberty & necessity to pursue spiritual

West End 3-19-78
Vickie Hull - Rest.
Bill Authier - Bapt.

SUPERIORITY IN THE CHURCH

Heb.12:18-24

I. We have blessings in Christ no one else has -- need not be ashamed. Failure to appreciate may lead to apostasy.

II. In Heb.12:18--some are enumerated.

A. It shows itself to be worthy of our fidelity

B. Motives in O.T. to prevent apostasy but our superior.

III. Some are:

Blackness, Tempest trumpet given louder & louder

A. Contrasting Mts. (*Not Sinai but Zion*) ↗

1. Law from Sinai--smoke, fire, tremble

Deut 18:16 (wrath). It was tangible. See Deut.4:11,5:

23. Read Exo.19:16-19, Exo.20:18-19,

Exo.19:12-13. *Terror, material, distance from God.*

a. Note he quotes freely giving substance not exact words. *Moses (v.21) not in O.T.*

b. Holy Spirit guided to all truth. Jn.16:13.

2. ~~We to Zion.~~ *We ARE come - there now. Now in*

a. Wooing Mt. of mercy.

fellowship

b. They had shadow--we substance.

Phil.13:20--our citizenship.

B. ~~We've angels.~~ *Surrounded, sympathetic to us*

1. Under old limited, to particular persons.

2. We've innumerable co. Myriad=host.

C. General assembly.

1. Not restricted--all can come.

2. It was to benefit only 1 nation.

D. Church of 1st Born.

1. 1st born always favored--he had priv. & honors not to others.

2. In church entire membership has this--all equal rights.

3. Jesus is 1st--Col.1:15. So are we. Jam.1:18

E. ~~Names enrolled.~~ *Written in Heaven, not earth, God writes*

1. See Lu. 5:20, Phil. 4:3.

2. We are citizens, with rights & privileges

F. God Judge. Gen 18:25 "will do right"

See John 5:22, Acts 17:31. In Fellowship & Ad.

G. Spirits--Redeemed of all ages. Rev. 7:15-17

H. Jesus--Not Holy of Holies one per yr.

I. Blood--Abel did well, Christ did best.

Salv. made manifest. Rom. 3:25-26.

1. Christ blood = mercy; Abel's = vengeance.

2. Welcome to Christ, not 'stricken dead' Because we do

IV. God does not change. If once terrible in
awe still is

A. Today we flee to, not from

B. In Christ refuge from wrath due 2d sinners

Heb 2:1-3

Heb 10:28-31

V. Give up Christ for:

A. Judaism - "superior"

B. Mahomedanism - crescent for cross, Bible for

love for sword, spiritual for sensual.

C. Paganism - darkness for light

D. Infidelity - Science can't ans. most imp

E. World - what profit if gain

Charlotte Radio 1/7/62

West End 2/24/63

THE CHURCH BATTLES A MODERN NERO

John 8:32

- I. When you think of ruthless monarchs perhaps none are more vivid in mind than Nero.
 - A. Relics of the torture of this maniac remain.
 1. You ask "what would I have done?"
 - B. But I do not believe Nero is dead. His method may not be as cruel but the end result is just as fatal.
- II. Perpetrating his name as synonymous with the diabolical, we think of today's Nero. Let's do an acrostic.
 - A. N-egativism.
 1. It's no new thought to advance that the church exists in a world of sin, and that the sinful world has no place in the church.
 2. How shall we keep it out? "Do nothing" seems to be the answer.
 3. We are afraid it will be wrong and get an impression that absolute nothing is better than something.
 - a. Mrs. Young--any religion is better to live by--only one to die by.
 4. This negativism becomes full grown reactionaryism.
 - a. It exhorts external restraints.
 - b. It feels no value in further study--we either know it all or it would be shattering to find I'm wrong on anything.
 5. Are we restrained by law and social pressure more than God?
 - a. Plymouth in early America had a man "sharply whipped for shooting a fowl on Sunday."
 - b. Captain Kemble of Boston fined.

c. Vermont law and man running.

6. Do we restrain by conviction based upon the will of the Lord.

B. Error.

1. Would you like for everybody to be right?

2. Do you sometimes wonder if anyone is?

3. At least we can say error is nothing new.

John 8:32 "Ye shall know the truth and the

4. Some errors Jesus met were:

a. Hiding your light.

Matt. 5:14-17 "Ye are the light of the world

b. Sins of the heart.

Matt. 5:27, 28 "Ye have heard that it was said

c. Revenge.

Matt. 5:38-43 "Ye have heard that it hath

d. Selfishness.

Matt. 5:43-48 "For if ye love them which love

e. Pretense.

Matt. 6:1 "Take heed that ye do not your a

f. Materialism.

Matt. 6:19-22 "Lay not up for yourselves

g. Hypocrisy.

Matt. 7:1-5 "Judge not that ye be not judged

5. How shall we meet error?

2 Tim. 2:23-26 "But foolish and ignorant

a. Ignore same.

2 Tim. 2:16-18 "But shun profane babbling

b. Do not strive.

(1) We still earnestly contend--don't
"quarrel" or "fight."

Col. 4:6 "Let your speech be always

c. Be gentle.

(1) Consideration, tenderness, love,
sympathy.

(2) Don't know why can't see it--yet we

we haven't on missions, gifts, loyalty etc.

(3) We must keep on teaching.

d. Forbearance--not make them mad.

(1) Anger is no assistent to teaching or learning.

Prov.16:32 "He that is slow to anger

Gal.6:1 "Brethren even if a man be over

2 Tim.2:25 "In meekness converting.

C.R-iches.

1. This is the only way I could say materialism, secularism with an r.

a. I thought of regression.

2. Life moves at such a pace, future looks dark and present hardly worth continuing so we "get what we can."

a. It seems to be a "tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

3. We see it today in a change of moral values--divorce, crime (one boy in 5 will have a record by time 18 years old) alcoholism, adiction to dope, brutality of movies. (I'd like to know who makes these things!)

4. Are we absorbed in things?

D. Opposition.

1. Story of Nehemiah the cup bearer is surely timely.

2. At personal sacrifice he left the court, travelled to war ravaged country.

3. I like the way someone summarized his opposition.

a. Intrigue--Ono and mischief - 8.

b. Innuendo--It's reported (Neh.6:6)

c. Intimidation Neh.6:11--kill him.

d. Insinuation--Tobiah letters sent to put me in fear. Neh.6:19.

4. All this brought danger but Neh. continued

5. Used this to grow in faith and courage.

III. As was one Nero--let's destroy this one.

West End 2/3/63

THE CHURCH--ITS IDENTITY

C. The preacher--born 2/1/1812, Belmont County Ohio. Died Anderson, Ind. 10/22/1878

I. Text

Acts 28:22 But we desire to hear of thee

A. Jesus promise

Matt 16:18 - And I say also unto thee, that

1. My task define and identity community styled "church"

2. Men called it "sect"

a. "Chief men of the Jews" -v-17. Sect never us in good sense in N.T.

b. Acts 24:14 "After the way which they call ^{heresy, so} 1. Says it was "called" --not was.

2. Same word as heresy--could there be a "Christian heresy?"

B. New Testament speaks of a community

John 3:3 - Kingdom of God

I Timothy 3:15 - the church of living God

Eph 4:4 1 body

1. To be in this body the same as to be in Christ.

2. To be in this body the same as to be in justified.

3. God and Christ dwell in the church

4. To be out of it is to be separated from God Christ, HS, blood, life of Christ, justification.

a. Matter of great imp. to know we are in Christ.

b. Lord has 1 church--what is it.

II. How may it be identified?

- A. A body not built on the fd. which God laid is not church.
- B. A body not founded and established in right place—isn't.
- C. A body not founded at the right time.
- D. A body not founded by the proper persons, Christ and apostles.
- E. A Kingdom with any other law given by head of church is not the Kingdom.
- F. A Kingdom labeled with a foreign name is not the Kingdom of God.

1. Two observations:

a. Failure in any one of above points is fatal.

b. Few claims to be church—only branch.

One branch does not respect another nor is it guided by the same laws. If one dies there is no ^{grief} ~~grief~~ among others—nor effort to save. All are willing it should die. When a new one arises they try to kill it—til it gets strong. Then they welcome what as formerly a "damnable heresy" as orthodox sister church.

IV. Shall we examine above points.

A. What is fd.

Matt. 16:18—And I say also unto thee, that

- 1. Here is a proposition concerning a person who was dead, and is alive and lives forever more.
- 2. So great is it—all will be lost who do not receive it.

3. To receive it, is to promise to do all
Jesus taught us to do and entertain hope
of all he promised.

4. How many churches do you know that reject
all written out by uninspired men and
receives one on confession Jesus is the
Christ. Those so received are founded on
rock.

5. Not Peter, form of gov., method, act or
ordinance.

B. What is the right place?

1. All agree—Jerusalem (Lu 24:47)

2. Doesn't matter how many good people in it,
how much good done or taught—they are
spurious.

3. If they are similar to original—all the
more fear of being deceived.

C. What was right time?

1. Matt 16:18 still future. Jesus further
taught them to pray "thy Kingdom come".

2. Aposites speak of it in existence in the
epistles. There it was founded in
apostle time

3. Must be right time—no trace of popery

til after 3 century—yet if popery is two
young—what about all the churches that
came afterward.

D. Did Christ and the aposites found it?

1. The work of Fox, Luther, Calvin, Wesley
or any modern person is insufficient.

E. Are any laws other than Jesus' practiced

1. The Bible contains the constitution

and the law.

2.No man was authorized to alter it, add to or take from.

a.Creeds are not like the law of God. One church will not pay attention to that of another. Yet all good people have respect for word of God. Don't have a new settlement not endorsed by the King.

F.Is the name new or foreign?

1.No new name is used for the only body unless a new idea has been advanced.

2.If we have nothing not had in apostolic time, no need for a new name.

IV. Is there a succession of churches?

A.N.T. Knows no more of papal succession than do the papist.

1. Church not built on succession but on truth Jesus is the Christ.

2.Build on truth—rite fd., place (Pentacost) persons (Christ and apostles) law (gospel) name (body church, Kingdom) worship.

3.May not know where it was in Dark Ages—only that the Lord took care of it. It's here now alive and full of power and determination, destined to do a greater work

than ever before.

4.If you are a friend of Christ—stand on the truth who is on the Lord's side?

5.Let us make a glorious record.

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