

**THE JERUSALEM CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Acts 2:36-47

## INTRODUCTION

- A. Denominationalism is rampant.
- B. There is also division in the Lord's church.
- C. We have a need to "go back to the drawing board" in religion.
- D. Our "Drawing Board" is the Bible – the inspired Word of God.
- E. The Bible is the pattern.
- F. Best place to begin is "the beginning" – the Jerusalem church of Christ.

## Discussion

- I. A CONVICTED PEOPLE – ACTS 2:36.
  - A. These people convicted by their sins.
  - B. Church today must be convicted, moved by sin.
    - 1. RO 3:23; 6:23; 1 JN 1:8, 10.
    - 2. We must be concerned with others as well as self. 1 PE 1:22; JA 5:16.
  - C. Many problems in our world – drugs, crime, immorality, terrorism.
  - D. Greatest threat to man not any of these – not even the threat of nuclear war, not global warming, not cancer, heart disease, AIDS – it is SIN!
  - E. People today need help – GOD'S HELP!
  - G. Church today needs help – we must turn to God's Word.
    - 1. Must ask, "What shall we do?"
    - 2. With unfaithful members?
    - 3. With false teaching detrimental to the Cause? (Within and Without)?
    - 4. With lukewarm member's content to let a lost and dying world pass?
    - 5. With problems of society that are now problems in the church?
      - a. Alcohol; drugs; immorality?
      - b. Young people looking to the wrong role models?
      - c. TV presents these as trendy, fashionable, accepted.
  - H. Must seek God's answer. HE 4:12.
  - I. Must see sin through God's eyes!
- II. A CONVINCED PEOPLE – ACTS 2:37.
  - A. Convinced of their sinfulness (Knew they had killed the Christ).
    - 1. Didn't ask for a "second opinion."
    - 2. Didn't say, "I don't see anything wrong with it."
    - 3. Didn't say, "Well, I just don't see it that way."
    - 4. Didn't compare themselves with others (Romans, etc.).
  - B. Church today must teach sin for what it is.
    - 1. Time to stop calling drunkenness – alcoholism, a disease; adultery – an affair, loving relationship; fornication – love.
    - 2. Time to stop letting mindset of the world become the mindset of the church!
  - C. Must be convinced of the wickedness of sin and problems caused.
    - 1. Unfaithful members.
    - 2. Lukewarm membership.
    - 3. False teaching and teachers.
    - 4. Worldliness among us.
  - D. Church today must stand against sin.
    - 1. Time to put faith into action.
    - 2. EP 5:11; Jude 21-23.
    - 3. Do not know what it means to hate sin.
      - a. Condone it by what we watch, read, and hear.
      - b. Have become hardened to it and think immune from it.

c. JE 6:15; 8:12.

III. A CONVERTED PEOPLE – ACTS 2:38, 42, 47.

- A. Acts 2:41 – “Gladly received” – convicted by sin and convinced of the problem, converted to righteousness without hesitation.
- B. Church today must be a converted people.
  - 1. With too many, generation and not regeneration.
  - 2. Converted to “religion” but not the Christ.
  - 3. The Cause is a pastime matter and not a full time endeavor!
- C. LK 22:31, 32.
  - 1. Peter was an apostle; had been on MT of Transfiguration; had walked on water; had performed miracles.
  - 2. He would cut off Malchus’ ear, witness the resurrection, ascension, preach on Pentecost, and be crucified upside down.
  - 3. Yet, at this point in his life – not converted.
- D. As Christians, must be totally converted to Christ.
  - 1. Can’t be unfaithful in attendance.
  - 2. Can’t be indifferent to false teaching.
  - 3. Can’t be lukewarm in service.
  - 4. Can’t be passive about worldly problems.

IV. A CONSISTENT PEOPLE – ACTS 2:42, 46.

- A. They “practiced what they preached.” JA 1:22.
- B. Members of God’s family must be consistent in life.
- C. Bible admonition/Warning abounds. 2 PE 1:5-9; EP 4:14; HE 5:12-14.
- D. Yet, today, children of God who:
  - 1. Do not know the books of the Bible.
  - 2. Cannot tell you the plan of salvation.
  - 3. Have never talked to anyone about his soul.
  - 4. Never mention the church to another.
- E. See again – HE 5:12-14.
  - 1. Too many “bottle-fed” children of God.
  - 2. Time to stop passing out Pampers at the front door.
  - 3. Time to stop playing “Let’s-Go-To-Church” game.
  - 4. Time to stop putting emphasis on self and put it where it belongs – on Christ, His church, and other people.
  - 5. Time to stop letting petty problems and personality conflicts deter us from serving our God.
- F. The church must get to work.
  - 1. Have wasted too much time.
  - 2. Have been cause of too many of our own problems and cure of none.
  - 3. While denominations out teaching “faith only,” church is busy practicing it.

CONCLUSION

- A. Jerusalem church of Christ was active, busy, growing. Why?
- B. Convicted by sin.
- C. Convinced of sin’s devastation.
- D. Converted totally to Christ and His cause.
- E. Consistent in their daily lives.