

THE LORD DOES THE ADDING TO HIS CHURCH

Acts 2:37-47

Introduction: Peter's sermons was simple, it declared the truth of God, clearly exposing the sin of those hearing and explaining the meaning of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. However, every word Peter spoke was influenced by the Holy Spirit. when the day was over some 3,000 people had been saved and added to the Church. Nothing has changed today in regard to who does the adding to God's Church.

I. SALVATION IS GOD'S WORK, ALONE (vv 37-41)

1. "What shall we do?" is the cry to all who are awakened to a sense of their sin and of God's wrath against them. It was the cry then and it is the same today.
 - What can one DO to atone for his/her sins? What can one DO to be saved?
 - There is NOTHING one can DO for salvation does not come by anything a person can DO.
2. God causes the lost person to hear the Gospel preached under the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - Philip was sent to the Ethiopian Eunuch.
 - Peter was sent to Cornelius.
 - Paul was sent to Lydia, the Philippian jailer and others.
 - Onesimus was sent to Paul.
 - God always finds a way to get His Gospel to those who want it.
3. The Holy Spirit produces a real, heart conviction of sin in the sinner's heart.
 - Conviction is necessary for without it no sinner can be saved.
 - It acknowledges God's justice in punishing sin and the helplessness without God.
4. God commands that the sinner repent or perish.
 - Repentance is more than being sorry.
 - Repentance is a change of mind, of motives, of masters, of life and is continual.
5. Baptism is not the cause of, or the means of remission of sins.
 - Baptism is a symbol of faith in Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

II. THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH IS GOD'S WORK, ALONE (vv41-47)

1. The Church of God cannot be built by human effort.
 - It is built through the power of God alone through the preaching of His Gospel.
 - God will never honor man's efforts if man attempts to take any credit.
 - "...*The LORD added to the Church daily such as should be saved...*"
(and He still does.)

2. The Church is:

- A fellowship created and maintained by the Holy Spirit.
- A Doctrinal Fellowship (doctrines of Jesus Christ).
- A Fraternal Fellowship (all things in common).
- A Spiritual Fellowship of Worship (come together in obedience of one accord to worship God).

CONCLUSION:

1. The "Church" is not man's idea nor can man add anything to it.
2. God, alone, brings men and women into His Church in His way.
3. The "Church" is a fellowship created and maintained by God.
 - It follows the teachings of Jesus Christ.
 - It is of one accord.
 - It assembles for the sole purpose of worshipping God.