

ADDED TO THE CHURCH

Acts 2:41, 47

By: Phil Grear

(Tuesday's Lesson)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Pentecost was special day to Jews
 - 1. 50 days after Passover celebrated the harvest
 - 2. Day of special sacrifices to God
- B. But this was special Pentecost (*Acts 2:1-47*)
 - 1. God had been planning and promising this one since before world began
 - 2. This was the one on which the church would begin
 - 3. Apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit, enabling them to reveal God's will (*Acts 2:1-4*)
 - a. Peter opened the door of the church to the Jews (*Acts 2:14-36*)
 - (1) Explained the events of the day
 - (2) Preached about miracles, death and resurrection of Chris
 - b. Audience interrupted and asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
 - (1) What shall we do about the fact we crucified the Son of God
 - (2) Peter gave God's divinely inspired answer (*Acts 2:38*)
 - 4. Three thousand people received his word and were baptized (*Acts 2:41*)

I. ATTITUDE OF ACCEPTANCE—**"GLADLY"**

- A. Some people like preaching, some people don't
 - 1. Some want nothing to do with it, find it offensive
 - 2. Even though it is message from God, many quick to reject it
 - 3. Was true on that day
 - a. Some "*mocked*" as apostles began to preach (*Acts 2:13*)
 - b. 3,000 accepted. Wonder how many rejected it?
- B. Some accepted it "*gladly*"
 - 1. "*Gladly*" means "*joyfully*"
 - a. They were thrilled to hear the message of God
 - b. Message of hope, forgiveness stirred their souls
 - c. Filled them with great joy

2. When Peter told them of the Christ who made forgiveness and salvation possible they could not help but respond *“gladly”*
 - a. This began to influence the entire lives
 - (1) *“breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.” (Acts 2:46)*
 - (2) God’s word not a restrictive burden, but freeing blessing
 - (3) No longer enslaved to sin and its consequences
- C. How do you react to the word of God?
 1. Do you find it a joy or a burden?
 2. The answer to that is determined by your attitude

II. ACTION OF ACCEPTANCE—*“RECEIVED HIS WORD”*

- A. Many believe *“receive his word”* just mental recognition of Jesus
 1. *“Accept Jesus into your heart”* as though nothing more to it than that
 2. But interesting they can never point to a passage that says that
- B. Those *“who gladly received his word”* did something
 1. They *“were baptized”*
 - a. Their acceptance of God’s word prompted baptism
 - b. Why would that be the case?
 - (1) Had just been told they needed to be *(Acts 2:38)*
 - (2) Peter had reminded them of their sin *(Acts 2:36)*
 - (3) Such *“cut them to the heart”* and asked *“What shall we do?”*
 - c. Peter didn’t tell them, *“You have already done it, you received his word”*
 - (1) There was something specific he told them to do
 - (2) *“Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38)*
 2. Those who accepted that then were baptized
 3. Their attitude of acceptance did not allow them to argue with Peter
 - a. *“Peter, don’t you think...”*
 - b. *“But, Peter, my preacher says...”*
 - c. *“Now, Peter, I have always heard...”*
 4. They received/accepted his word, and had no choice but to obey
 - a. *“Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21)*
 - b. James 1:21 + Acts 2:38 = Acts 2:41
- C. You have not truly accepted his word until you have been baptized

III. ADDITION ON ACCEPTANCE—*“ADDED”*

- A. Added to what?
 1. Added to the church *(Acts 2:47)*

2. Those who did what God told them to do were added to the church
- B. We must understand what the church is
1. Not “added to the churches”
 - a. There was only one, and God put the saved into it
 - b. “Which denomination was that church?”
 - (1) It was no denomination, because none existed
 - (2) There was only one church—the one Christ built (*Matthew 16:18*)
 - c. Many say, “Join the church”, but such is unbiblical idea
 - (1) Very common statement, but that doesn’t make it right
 - (2) What does the Bible say?
 2. So which church did God had them to?
- C. Let us emphasize the word “added”
1. “*And the Lord **ADDED** to the church daily those who were being saved*” (*Acts 2:47*)
 - a. Who were the “saved”?
 - (1) “*baptized for the remission of sins*” (*Acts 2:38*)
 - (2) “*He who believes and is baptized shall be saved*” (*Mark 16:16*)
 - (3) “*remission of sins*” is another way of saying “saved”
 - (a) “Salvation” is being saved from sin and its consequences
 - (b) Sin is removed, consequences are gone, you have been saved
 - b. God took those who have been saved (sins removed) and added them to the church
 - (1) Church is made up of the saved, the saved constitute the church
 - (a) Some asks, “Do I have to be a member of the church to be saved?”
 - (b) same as asking “Do I have to be a member of the church to be a member of the church?”
 - (c) Same as asking, “Do I have to be saved to be saved?”
 - (2) No such thing as “unsaved believer”
 - (a) Believers are those who have repented and been baptized
 - (b) No one is saved who has not repented and been baptized
 - (c) No one who has not repented and been baptized has been added to the church
 2. Difference between “joining” the church and being “added” to it
 - a. “Join” is something you do, like joining a club or athletic team
 - b. “added to” is something that is done to you
 - c. when you saved you are added to the church
 - (1) Can be added to the church without ever joining a denomination
 - (2) can join a denomination and never be added to the church
 - d. If you asked on of the 3,000, “What church did you join?” you would have confused them

- (1) There was only one church, and they didn't join it
- (2) They were added to it by God when they were received his word
- (3) Many blessings given to us when we are saved
 - (a) forgiveness, hope, salvation, *etc.*
 - (b) one of the blessing we receive when saved is that we get to be added to the church