“WHAT GOD WANTS FROM HIS CHURCH”
“A CHURCH THAT GOD WILL BLESS ”
“LET US ALL GO BACK TO THE OLD LANDMARK”

Sermon Scriptures: Acts 2: 41-47

- Peter had just finished preaching and 3000 souls were saved…”Pentecost”!
- This passage talks about life in a new community of believers.
- Intellectuals are now accepting Christianity as an explanation of life; but are not ready to accept it as a way of life.
- In this new community there was no room for “intellectual snobbery”;”nor social superiority”; nor acceptance of temperamental privilege.
- The new community was bound unto fellowship by the same ideas, same practices, same religious habits and by the same economic rights & responsibility (Possessions were sold and parted to all men, as every man had need {they stayed and basked in the after g low of Pentecost}).
- All was done with joy and gladness.

Christianity has lost its place of prominence in this semi-Christian civilization… it can be recovered:

1. First, by strengthening the teaching,
2. Second, by strengthening the fellowship,
3. Third, by strengthening the ritual, not as a matter of routine practice; but as habitual acts in-which people are drawn together, like a family around the dining room table,
4. Forth, by strengthening the prayer life of people.

A Standard/ A Landmark/ An Expectation we should strive for… (Acts 2:42)
1. **Apostles’ Doctrine / Teaching:**
   - The Apostles teaching initially was based upon personal recollection and the Old Testament and evolved to a “standard of teaching…”
     - (Rm.6:17-18; 2 Tim. 1: 13-14; Mt. 28: 19-20)
   - ***God loves and will bless a church that has a trademark/landmark; a love for the Word of God…the scripture uses the word “steadfastly”***

2. **Fellowship:** Gr. Koinonia, the communion, fellowship, and participation with Christ in His suffering, in this life, in the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit in this life, and in the glories of the Kingdom in the next life. (2 Cor. 13:14; I Jn. 1:3)
   - Fellowship first perhaps with the Apostles; but also with reference to the wider fellowship of all believers…
     - (1 Cor. 1:9-10; I Jn. 1: 1-7)
   - ***God loves & blesses, prospers a church that is continually bound up in fellowship (Having something in common: Jesus & walking in the light… “and all that believed were together”***.

3. **Worship:**
   - Is the channels by which the communication of the influences of the Holy Spirit on the souls of men and women …the means by which the vehicle through grace is expressed by word and prayer…which is in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
     - I Cor. 10:16-17 {read KJV & AMP version})
   - ***All believers who partake of the Holy Communion are one religious body of worshippers in Christ; and form the Church… the body of Christ--- a Church of worshippers.***

4. **Prayer:**
   - People who remember each other in their prayers can survive the separations which otherwise might destroy their unity. People who pray together, people who keep the Lord’s Day in the same way; achieve a unity of the spirit in spite of the fact that they work for different concerns in different ways, in different parts of the city, state or country and under different circumstances.
• The early church faced persecution; but lived by “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jas. 5:16); and they prayed intensely and steadily.

• The N.T. Church often engaged in prolonged corporate prayer; God intends His people to gather together for meaningful enduring prayer; note Jesus’ words…”My house shall be called the house of prayer” – (Mt. 21:13).

• Churches that base their theology on the divine pattern in Acts and N.T. writings; should practice corporate prayer that cries out to God as a vital element of their worship--- and not for two minutes a service.

• “Pray without ceasing”…this means to abide in the presence of the Father, having a continual cry from the heart for His Grace and Blessing. “Without Ceasing” does not mean to be constantly uttering formal prayers; rather it implies recurring prayer of all sorts of occasions throughout the day.
  - (Lk. 18:1; Rm.12:12; Eph.6:18; Colossians 4:2)

**A Church that is immersed in prayer is loved, and will be blessed and shall prosper!**

**WE CAN PROCLAIM!!!!!!**

**“C-4” IS A CHURCH THAT GOD WILL BLESS...BECAUSE:**

• We are united by the Holy Spirit;
• Through powerful witness sinners are saved;
• The baptism of the Holy Spirit is taught;
• The Holy Sprits gifts are in operation;
• C-4 has five-fold leadership;
• Demons have been defeated;
• There is absolute loyalty;
• On the Sabbath C-4 comes together for worship and mutual edification through the written word;
• C-4 stands in humility, awe, and reverential fear before the presence of the Holy Ghost;
• C-4 has ordained those with godly character as Elders, Pastors, & Deacons;
• There is observable love &fellowship in the spirit among the members;
• C-4 is a praying and fasting church;
• The members of C-4 are set apart from the world view(s) and their surrounding culture;
• C-4 actively helps and sends missionaries into the community and other lands.

“C–4”... A CHURCH GOD HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS AND PROSPER!!!