

Let the Church be the Church: An Evangelistic Community

July 9, 2006

In our study of the Book of Acts, we have been looking at some of those characteristics or attitudes of the early church that allowed them to impact their world in a profound way. We have seen for the Church to be the Church, it was:

- A Believing Community, Acts 2.37-41
- A Devoted Community, Acts 2.42
- A Community in Awe, Acts 2.43
- A United Community, Acts 2.44
- A Generous Community, Acts 2.45
- A Worshipping Community, Acts 2.46-47a

This morning, we want to look at the seventh of those characteristics.

- **An Evangelistic Community, Acts 2.47b**

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2.47b

The early church we've been focusing on in the book of Acts was a great church because it had purpose. It knew that it should be doing something and knew what that something was. It had experienced the life changing power of Jesus and had also caught a vision of how that same power could change the lives of people they knew, and they were doing something about it. It has been said that there are three kinds of people: those who watch what happens; those who make it happen; and those who wonder what happened. These Christians were those who made it happen.

The Sovereignty of God – Divine Initiative

*“And **the Lord added** to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2.47b*

*“**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28.18-20*

The Cooperation of Believers – Human Responsibility

*“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, ‘Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, **‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’**”*

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” Romans 10.9-15; Isaiah 52.7

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5.17-20