

Our society today is very much **"on the move"** - family, military, business..

It surprises many believers to learn that the Early Church was also **"on the go"** , **"on the move"** and constantly in forward motion:

I. **"APOSTOLIC CHURCH"**

- **1 Tim 1:3** - *"..I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.."*
- **Titus 1:4-5** - *"To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. Qualified Elders For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you."*

- **2 Tim 4:9-13** - *"Be diligent to come to me quickly; 10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments."*
- **Titus 3:12-14** - *"When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful."*

- **Philemon 1:22-24** - *"But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you. Farewell Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers."*
- **Eph 6:21-22** - *"But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts."*
- **Col 4:7-17** - *"Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house. Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen."*

- **1 Cor 16:13-20** - *"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—that you also submit to such, and to everyone who*

works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. 20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss."

- **1 Cor 1:10-13** - "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"

> Some were "**STATIONARY** ministers"

> Some were "**MISSIONARY** ministers"

- Matt 16:18 - "...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."
 - **Only JESUS is the King; the Captain; the Senior Pastor!!**

II. **MODERN CHURCH** (1700-now)

- > Billy Graham
- > Billy Sunday
- > Charles Finney
- > George Whitfield
- > John Wesley

III. **LORD OF THE CHURCH**

- **Jn 11:21,32** - "Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died..."Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."
- **Jn 14:16-18** - "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."
- **Jn 15:26** - "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."
- **Jn 16:5-7,16** - "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you..." "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father."

> Jesus was **NOT** a stationary minister, was always on the move, and refused to confirm to peoples preconceived traditions/models.

Jesus **CHALLENGED** the disciples to grow up/mature by physically leaving, and sending Another in His place, with His Words

Jesus **CHALLENGED** His church to keep pressing in to Him, keep growing with Him, and He told them to listen to the Messenger that He was sending to them, as though it were Himself.

- > It's **NOT** "our church"...
- > It's **NOT** "our ways"...
- > It's **NOT** "our preferences"...

- > It's **HIS** Church: Matt 16:18
- > It's **HIS** ways: Isa 55 ; Prov.3:5-6
- > It's **HIS** plan: Matt 28:18-20

SOME APPLICATIONS:

- > ***"Blessed are the flexible..."***
- > ***"GET ON GOD'S PAGE!!"***

- > **TRUST** the Lord!
- > **TRUST** the leaders!

- > Get your eyes **OFF** of men!
- > Keep your eyes **ON** HIM!!

- It's **HIS** Church; **HIS** ways; **HIS** plan!
- **JESUS** is King of this church!!
 - **JESUS** is the Captain!!
 - **JESUS** is the Senior Pastor!!