

Acts 11:19-30 – 19 July 2020

“The Real P.E.T. Doctrine”

Introduction

Jesus has ordained there to be an “Age of the Church” empowered by His HS where He pours His attention toward THE WHOLE WORLD

We’ve seen some amazing one-time events, like

Apostles decision to preach despite Herod Act 3-5

Decision to appoint Deacons in Act 6

Stephen’s bravery and understanding in Acts 7

1st time Gospel came to Samaritans (Acts 8) & to the Gentiles in Act 10-11

Now at end of Acts 11 – we see the pattern the Lord gave to grow the Church

Many church growth formulas today- Can pay consultants to come in! Wow

But God gave us all the tools we need in the Word

Some believe that you need to offer just a certain type of message

‘Don’t be negative’, ‘You gotta be relevant’,
‘Teach prosperity only’

Many tends toward teach a “pet” doctrine

Every third sermon sounds like the same message

Or – Every message has that one Bible verse quoted yet again!

I recently read an article in the Christian Post called “*7 Reasons Some Christians Push Pet Doctrines*” by Dan Delzell

But what should Church Leaders be teaching? What type of message should Christians be ready to offer?

If we want to be sure we’re offering the message, the right doctrine, Jesus wants us to offer, let’s learn from the 3-message model of Acts 11

If you’re ready to offer this doctrine or teaching, you’re ready to grow the church!

1st Message Needed To Grow The Church is Preaching (Chap 11:19-21)

Read Vs 19

1. From the of Acts 8, the church has been scattered abroad.
 - a. We saw Peter go to Lydda, Sharon & Joppa in Act 9 – Ultimately giving to the Gentiles
 - b. These Jews left Jerusalem when Peter did
 - c. They've not received the revelation that Peter did – that God has offered cleansing even to the Gentiles by His death on the cross.
2. But what are they doing? Declaring the Gospel
 - a. They're speaking of Christ's resurrection.
 - b. This is preaching, declaring the Good News

Read Vs 20

1. We already know Barnabas came from Cyprus & Simon came from Cyrene.
2. Subject of Good News – Salvation thru Jesus!!!
3. W/o this msg, no other msg matters!

Read Vs 21

1. Many in Antioch become saved!
2. The substance of preaching – Jesus’ resurrection and His offer of salvation
3. The goal of preaching – repentance and belief unto salvation of many souls!
4. The conversion of a dead soul to new life results in babies.
 - a. Church growth begins with preaching
 - b. New born babies need lots of help
 - i. Read I Pet 2:2
 - c. So preaching cannot be the end of the msg.

2nd Message Needed To Grow The Church is Exhorting (Chap 11:22-24)

Read Vs 22

1. Barnabas is sent to help these new born babies
2. This nickname means – “Son of Exhortation”
(see Acts 4:36 – when the Apostles nickname him)

Read Vs 23

1. Barnabas began to exhort these new believers.
 - a. Exhort *translations* – Consolation, Comfort, Entreat, Implore, Beseech.
 - b. Gk word *parakaleo* – to call near, to invite
 - c. Webster’s Dict. – “To encourage, to embolden, to incite by words or advise. To animate or urge by arguments to good conduct.
2. What was he prodding them to do? To stick tight to the Lord!
 - a. Many voices will fight for their attention.
 - b. The exhortation isn’t just to “keep going”, but to keep going by knowing the Lord’s will.

- c. The exhortation isn't stick tight to me
Barnabas! I'll teach you! (What pride)
- 3. Exhortation is centered on helping the people
 - a. We all need exhorted to cleave to the Lord
 - b. But we all have personal battles that we
need a bro or sis to come along and exhort us.

Read Vs 24

- 1. We have many preachers w/i the church, but
are you getting involved w/ people to exhort them?
- 2. It takes the power of the H.S. to prod you into
comforting and inciting others.
 - a. Did you know this word *parakaleo* for exhort,
is same word used for Comforter / H.S.?
 - b. We need to be stirring each other up (Read
Heb 10:24) – We ARE each other's H.S.
 - c. Some of us need to stir our own heart up
(Read II Tim 1:6)

3rd Message Needed To Grow The Church is Teaching (Chap 11:25-30)

Read Vs 25

1. There's another msg that a Church needs to grow, & Barnabas knew he wasn't gifted with it.
2. He needed Saul, who had spent years in study.
 - a. Saul grew up in the Jewish Scriptures
 - b. Spent 3 yrs - Arabia & now 12 yrs - Tarsus

Read Vs 26

1. "Whole year they taught" the disciples
 - a. Taught them the Word of God
 - b. A disciple is a "learner"
2. Who decides what the church should learn?
 - a. Whatever the Lord said should be taught!
 - b. All of what the Lord said should be taught!
 - c. Who are we to pick and choose?

3. Once babies begin to grow, they need meat
 - a. Turn to Heb 5:13 – 6:2
 - b. If learning soccer & you only learn how to be a goalie, did you really learn soccer?
 - c. If learning the will of the Lord & you only learn certain books of the Bible, did you really learn the will of the Lord?
4. Why offer all the Word of God
 - a. Paul offered ALL that he knew of the Word (Read Act 20:26-27)
 - b. Jesus offered ALL He had from the Father (Read John 15:15)
 - c. Our commission is to offer ALL the Word (Read Matt 28:20)
5. Learning the Bible keeps the Lord's Words in context and in balance.
 - a. Context – Have confidence in the true meaning of verses b/c you know the rest!
 - b. Balance – Have confidence you're not smart on minor issues & ignorance of major issues.

Read Vs 27-30

1. This is a linking story to get us into the next chapter of Acts.
 - a. There is great trouble (persecution and famine) in Jerusalem...those Elders need help.
2. Notice how they gave to offer help in vs 29
 - a. This is the N.T. principle of giving
 - b. Read I Cor 16:2
 - c. The Lord will prosper, then we need to purpose.
3. So the Word continues to go out, supported in a very tangible way by the disciples within each local Church.

Conclusion

So, we've seen the 3 messages needed to grow the church

1. Preaching of the Gospel

- a. Don't neglect to keep the main msg as the main msg!
- b. We only have something to offer b/c Christ Jesus rose from the dead! Offer it!

2. Exhorting the Church

- a. The H.S. has been left w/ us to exhort one another daily.
- b. Encourage, guide, stir up, call near to Christ

3. Teaching the whole Bible

- a. We CANNOT correctly or complete serve the Lord unless we know the whole counsel of God. (Repeat)