

One Lord – One People – One Voice

Acts 4:23-31

Introduction

"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." Psalm 2:3

"Why do the Gentiles rage?"

Emperor Diocletian (284-305)

- I. "Diocletian..., for having extended the Roman Empire in the east and the west, and for having extinguished the name of Christians, who brought the Republic to ruin."
- II. "Diocletian..., for having adopted Galerius in the east, for having everywhere abolished the superstition of Christ, for having extended the worship of the gods."

"the peoples plot in vain"

Five Necessary Elements of Churches that have *Power*

I. They feared God more than man – vv18-20

The only way to lose a fear of man is to fear God more, and trust Him implicitly without hesitation or reservation.

"The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe." Proverbs 29:25

The tragic consequences of a *fear of man* in the case of king Saul: 1 Samuel 15:10-28; 32-33

Genesis 20:2; Genesis 20:11; Isaiah 57:11

John 12:42

II. They gathered together with the saints and lifted their voices to God – vv23-24

Peter encouraged suffering saints to yield themselves to the faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:19).

The Christians find their strength and courage in intimate communion with God.

Division in the church always hinders prayer and robs the church of spiritual power.

The Imperative Need for Collective Confidence in Communal Prayer

"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer together" Acts 1:14

Acts 2:42, 44, 46

Power comes through Faith – Pray with confident trust in a Sovereign Creator.