

**Subject: *The Church of the Risen Christ***

**Scripture: *Acts 5:27-33***

What's going on here? The church of Jesus Christ was under attack. The Jewish religious leaders (the Sanhedrin council and the high priest) told them to stop preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus. They would not stop, and as a result they suffered persecution. The first church of Jerusalem is an example and inspiration to our church and all churches. When Billy Graham came onto the national scene they said, "Mr. Graham, you're going to set evangelism and the church back 50 years." And he responded, "I want to set it back 2,000 years."

**This church had the right message (vs. 28)** "ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine" We know what they were preaching and teaching (vs. 30-32). They stressed two things:

- The truth about Christ (vs. 30-31)– Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and exaltation That is the Gospel. *1 Corinthians 15:3-4* <sup>3</sup> *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;* <sup>4</sup> *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures*
- The truth about conversion (vs. 31) – repentance and forgiveness of sins *Luke 24:46-47* <sup>46</sup> *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:* <sup>47</sup> *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

**This church had the right motivation (vs. 29)** "we ought to obey God rather than men" (vs. 32) "and we are his witnesses...to them that obey him." They weren't trying to cause trouble. They were just committed to obeying the Lord.

**This church had the right members (vs. 34-41)**

How can you stop a group of people who count it a blessing to suffer for the name of Christ? These weren't fair-weather Christians. They were sold-out Christians. Their motto was "whatever it takes." They rejoiced because they could suffer for Christ's sake. That ought to put some of us to shame. We let the least little things get us off track. At the beginning of Acts 5, we have the story of Ananias and Sapphira. God killed them because they were hypocrites. God was keeping His church pure.

**This church had the right ministry (vs. 42)**

They met publicly and privately. They did not stop teaching and preaching Jesus Christ. In other words, they taught and preached the Bible. *John 5:39* *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.* They prayed. They witnessed. They were not interested in gimmicks and gags. They were not interested in decisions. They were only interested only making disciples. That was the commission Jesus had given. *Matthew 28:18-20* *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

The church has always been the body of Christ on earth (Acts 9:1-6). We represent Christ and we do His work on earth. We ought to be the best church we can be. Christ gave His life for us. Now it's our turn to give our life for Him.