

Lighthouse Bible Church

May 5th, 2013

Acts 2: 40 – 47

‘Building with the right Foundation and Blueprints’

Stand – Read – Pray

We have been a church for about 2 ½ years and I, like many of you, are constantly amazed and encouraged by how God has brought us to where we are today.

We are at a place in the life of this church where we are even contemplating a future building program on land that we have already paid off. We recently had a building project group meeting to discuss future considerations and plan for a building project.

Two things that were discussed in that meeting, amongst others, were the foundation on which the church would be built and floor plans leading to official blueprints for the building structure itself.

So as we consider a future building project I think it is appropriate for us to stop and consider what our church, LBC, is built on, what is its foundation and what is the floor plan, the blueprint, that we are to follow when it comes to being the type of church that Jesus builds & purchased with His own blood?

You see, the church is not the building right, the church is the people who occupy the building, any building or any place. And didn't Jesus say in **Matthew 16: 18 I will build My church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.**

So, is our church building on the only true foundation, the foundation of Jesus Christ, and are we following His blueprint for what a church should be. As we look at this passage in Acts 2: 42 we can find the answer by looking at our church through the lens of the beginning church that Jesus, **Acts 20: 28** says **purchased with His own blood** and will build His way.

I am more concerned, and I hope you are too, that we follow God's blueprint for our churches foundation and growth through building into the lives of people for salvation, sanctification and service for God's glory and to further His kingdom.

The physical building would just be an added blessing and means in which God would allow us to further His kingdom. But our priority always needs to be the spiritual foundation of a spiritual building of **living stones, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ** as **1st Peter 2: 5** says, which is the true church of God.

So let's look at this passage and see how we are doing on our building program. Let's look back at the book of Acts that brings us to our passage here this morning.

In Acts Chapter 1 we see the disciples talking with Jesus for the last time on the mount of Olives and His charge to them was that they, in Verse 8, would be His witnesses to all the earth about the good news of the gospel, His life, death, burial and resurrection.

In Verses 9 – 11 we see Jesus taken up in a cloud out of their sight and 2 angels tell them that **this Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven will so come in like manner as you have seen Him go.**

Then the disciples go back to the city of Jerusalem and into the upper room where they celebrated the final Passover meal with Jesus and decide that they need to appoint another disciple to take Judas' place and they chose Matthias.

Then in Chapter 2 while they are in one place, the Holy Spirit of God comes upon them and they are filled with the Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit empowered them. (Verses 4 and 11 says they are speaking in **tongues** and Verses 6 & 8 describe what those tongues are; they are **our own language**.)

And what were they speaking? The end of verse 11 tells us. They were **speaking the wonderful words of God**. As a result of all the different people and languages represented that the apostles were speaking in, some people thought they were drunk.

Then Peter said to the multitude, 'what you are hearing is a partial fulfillment of the scriptures written by the prophet Joel' and then he launches in to this wonderful message about the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he is sharing with them the wonderful words of God in the gospel message.

He indicts the people for their part in the death of Jesus by saying in **Verses 23 and 24 Jesus was delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified and put to death. Whom God raised up having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.**

Then he says in **Verse 36 therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.**

Then starting in **Verse 37** we get the response of the people to this powerful Spirit lead message. **They were cut to the heart.** And Peter says to them **repent, be baptized and you will receive the Holy Spirit ... as many as God will call.**

Then Peter, **Verse 40** says **with many other words testified and exhorted them to be saved from this perverse generation** and it says **3000 people** were saved and baptized and added to the church.

So what then does a church do, what kind of foundation should it have, what kind of blueprint can we follow to be the kind of church that ministers to those who are in our congregation and those who come into our congregation. Well, Verse 42 is the key so let's look at it.

Verse 42: and they (the new people added to the church) **continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.**

That is the foundation and that is the blueprint for the type of church that honors God and furthers His kingdom. Four aspects of that and then there are others that flow out of that, but these 4 are essential.

First of all notice that they (born again believers from Verses 38 – 41) **continued steadfastly.** Once they joined themselves to this church they held to it continually and with steadfastness which means to persevere constantly, to be diligent, to adhere closely.

What would they adhere closely too and continue steadfastly in? First of all **in the apostles doctrine**, the apostles teaching. They adhered to the Word of God. The apostles doctrine was God's word until the word was written.

The church is going to be built Jesus' way when the foundation of that church honors Christ because it adheres to the Word of God. Paul told Timothy and Titus to **teach sound doctrine, to hold to sound doctrine** as **Titus 1: 9**, and **1st Timothy 1: 3, 4: 13**.

Also, the church is going to be built Jesus' way when the foundation of that church adheres to the Word of God and, secondly, continues steadfastly in **fellowship**.

You say, well I don't like a big church because you can't fellowship together. Guess what, this church had 3000 plus people in it and they continued steadfastly in fellowship. So, yes you can.

The word fellowship, *koinonia*, means a partnership, a sharing together. A sharing of our lives, our **resources**, our **love**, our **time**. It is **praying** together, **edifying** one another, **encouraging** one another, **admonishing** one another, **exhorting** one another, **giving** to one another.

The reason we can fellowship together is because of the common bond we have in Christ, and in His Spirit indwelling us and the Word of God that we live by and the church that we worship together at.

The church that is going to be built Jesus' way not only teaches sound doctrine from the Word of God and fellowships together but the church with the solid foundation and proper blueprints is a church that continues steadfast in **the breaking of bread** or in the celebrating of the Lord's table or communion.

And that is what we are going to do here this morning. This is the wonderful opportunity for all of us to worship and fellowship together as we remember the sacrificial love of God through Christ in the giving of His body and the shedding of His blood for us. Those two aspects are remembered as we partake of the bread, the symbol of His body, and the cup, the symbol of His blood.

This becomes an important aspect of the church that Jesus builds and here is why. Just as teaching false doctrine or not teaching doctrine at all is condemned in scripture and warrants discipline, just as a lack of fellowship, destroys the unity of a church and can cause division which scripture condemns, just as a lack of prayer, which scripture condemns, hinders the functioning of the church, so too, does partaking of the elements in an unworthy manner, hinder the life of a believer and thus the life and fellowship of the church.

Partaking of communion with the bread and cup are essential to the church that Jesus builds because it is commanded in scripture as a way of remembering our Lord and proclaiming His death until He comes, but partaking of it in an unworthy manner can devastate a believer and a church.

Look at **1st Corinthians 11: 27 – 34** *Read*

And finally, **prayer**. Prayer is essential, as well, to the life and building of this church with the blueprint God provides through His Word.

So how is our ongoing building project coming along? Yes, we are a church that holds to the Word of God. Any teaching ministry that you sit in, whether it is here from the pulpit, in a Sunday school class, in children's church, in GNC's, in small group Bible studies, in children's church or wherever, you will see that the Word of God is definitely a priority and taught as such.

Are we a church that fellowships together. Yes we are! By virtue of not having a building, we are sometimes limited to our fellowship time to the REACH building. But when it comes to partnering together and sharing together and loving one another and serving one another and encouraging one another and giving to one another and all of that, with the resources we have, we are doing a wonderful job.

Are we a church that celebrates the Lord's table together as an act of worship and fellowship. Yes we are! We do this because we are commanded to and we do it once a month because we want that to be an intimate time of remembering what Christ has done for us.

We always remind everyone that this table is only for believers. We always ask that everyone examine themselves before they approach the table so as to not partake in an unworthy manner. We always offer the elements to anyone who is a believer whether they attend our church or another or are just passing through. We always pause for a time of prayerful reflection and repentance so that we can confess our sins because He is faithful and just will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Are we a church that prays? Yes we are! We spend time in prayer before anyone else arrives here Sunday mornings. We pray during Sunday school and children's church. We pray several times during the service. We pray after the service is over. We pray during the week and then there are the countless number of you who pray all week long.

In a day like ours when the spiritual demolition crew would like to come in and tear down the church that Christ is building, we need to always be vigilant in these 4 main areas as well as others. Anything that we do or not do that does not meet the specs of the foundation and blueprints of the master builder, He will not approve of that building.

We must always follow the blue prints as we continue building the structure of living stones of Christ's body. And the master blueprints are right here in the Word of God. May we ever be faithful to the building project given to us by the master builder, Jesus Christ.

Closing prayer.

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Acts 2: 41 – 42

**‘Building with the right Foundation and
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Introduction

Matthew 16: 18, Acts 20: 28
1st Peter 2: 5, Acts 23 – 24, 36
Acts 2: 37, 40

Verse 41 – 42 They continued steadfastly...

In the Word of God
Titus 1: 9, 1st Timothy 1: 3, 4: 13

In Fellowship

In Breaking of Bread
1st Corinthians 11: 27 – 34

In Prayer

Examining our Foundation and Blueprints

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