

A Model Church - cont.

Christians travelled outside of their own town to teach others.

- *In the midst of persecution (8:4, 14)* - these Christians did not let persecution stop them from teaching the lost.

The solution for non-evangelistic churches today is to get out and spread the gospel (Matthew 9:38).

A Growing Church
(Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1, 7; 12:24)

Lastly, the Jerusalem church grew and members were added to them. Unfortunately, so many churches today are not growing, but dying. The growth of the Jerusalem church came about through great effort and preaching (5:42). It did not come about by unauthorized gimmicks and it was not hindered by persecution or problems. Today, we can grow as well if we put forth the same effort and the same preaching (Acts 16:5).

The Jerusalem church is a model church for all of us today. Let's follow their example and we will have the same success that they had in the Lord.
- Chris Reeves -

- Scripture of the Week -

" O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endures for ever. "
- 1 Chronicles 16:34 -

Sometimes it's easy to forget that the Lord is good. When we fall on difficult times, we may not realize that the Lord is still good to us. The Lord is good all the time! I will remember that this week.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
wbcoc.org

Radio Program
Sundays: 8:30 - 9:00 am
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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 5 pm
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Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

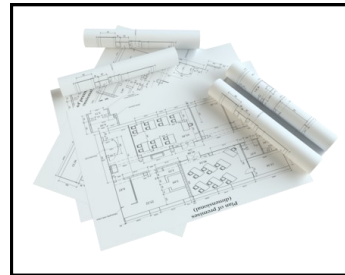
Jerusalem: A Model Church (Part 4)

In the bulletin the past three weeks, we have studied how the Jerusalem church in Acts 2-12 is a good model for all local churches today. They set the right example of how to faithfully serve the Lord on a weekly basis. We have noted that they were a:

- A Converted Church (Acts 2:37-41).
- A Worshipping Church (Acts 2:42, 46-47).
- A Learning Church (Acts 2:42; 5:42).
- A United Church (Acts 2:44-46; 4:24, 32; 6:1-6).
- A Praying Church (Acts 2:42; 4:24; 6:6; 12:5).
- A Giving Church (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1-6).
- A Disciplined Church (Acts 5:1-11).
- A Persecuted Church (Acts 4:1ff; 5:17ff; 6:8ff; 8:1ff; 12:1ff).
- A Rejoicing Church (Acts 2:46; 5:41).

Let us conclude our study looking at the Jerusalem church to see what additional ways they are a model for us today.

An Organized Church (Acts 6:1-6; 11:30; 15:2; 21:18)



Tenth, the Jerusalem church was an organized church with elders. There were men there qualified to lead the church in addition to the apostles. While we do not have apostles today, we still have elders. The problem today is that many local churches lack proper leadership. Men simply do not want to qualify themselves to be elders and deacons.

When you examine the leadership of the Jerusalem church, you find that their organization was:

- *Ordained by God (Eph. 3:10; 4:8ff)* - elders in the church are a part of God's plan for the church.

- *Taken seriously (Ac. 6:1ff)* - leaders in the church worked to correct all problems or deficiencies.
- *Effective in work* - the elders worked to keep the church pure from outside problems and inside problems.

The solution for unorganized local churches today is to encourage men to qualify themselves to lead and make a plan to do it (Philippian 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1ff; Titus 1:5ff).

An Evangelistic Church (Acts 5:41-42; 8:4, 14; 11:22)

Eleventh, the Jerusalem church was evangelistic, spreading the gospel to the saved and the lost. The problem today is that some local churches will not spread the gospel outside the building.

When you look at the evangelism of the Jerusalem church, you find that they evangelized:

- *With zeal, continually and selflessly (5:41-42)* - these Christians were constant in their teaching of the lost at home and publicly.
- *Without boundaries (11:22)* - these