

The “State” of the Church

Acts 2:41-47

Acts 2:41-6:7 describes the earliest days of the Church at Jerusalem and covers the first three to five years of the movement [A.D. 30 – A.D. 35]. Luke records the events of this period by means of a thesis paragraph followed by a series of events (or happenings) that illustrate the thesis paragraph. Luke has given us the initial constructive events of the church mission in detail and to continue with that detail would have resulted in volumes of Church history. For the sake of brevity, Luke presents these illustrative vignettes or portrayals as representative situations drawn from many experiences of the early church. From our text, we begin with a thesis paragraph (*Acts 2:41-47*) from which Luke helps the reader feel and understand the nature of what God is doing by His Holy Spirit through the witness of the Apostles. In effect, Luke offers us the “state” of the individual believer and the corporate church and those unique qualities that resulted in consistent growth spiritually. As we read and assimilate this information, we realize that Luke is presenting us with a pattern for ministry that was designed to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ until He comes again.

The State of the Church (or Believer)...

(1) _____ A saved people _____

(2) _____ A separated people _____

(3) _____ A steadfast people _____

(4) _____ A sanctified people _____

(5) _____ A sacrificial people _____