|  |
| --- |
| ***The Church has a Purpose*** |
| http://www.vrchurchofgod.org/imagelib/sitebuilder/layout/spacer.gif |
| |  | | --- | | The church should have a purpose within it’s walls, as well as outside the walls. You exist because of a purpose. Find that purpose and live by it. You will find your church will grow when people see a purpose of it.  Acts 2:42-47 – And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. ***And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.***  I like what Toby Morgan said in his book An Acts 2 Church in the 21st Century.  *JUST WHO DOES THIS THING BELONG TO ANYWAY?*  One of the buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the famous architect, was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Martin of Buffalo, New York. The home stands as a wonderful tribute to Wright’s genius. The correspondence between Wright and the Martins, reveal that the owners considered Wright as arrogant, difficult and egotistical. Although the house was an architectural wonder, they hated it, as well as Wright and the furnishings the master architect designed. A phenomenal construction success turned out to be a monumental flop. Why such a low opinion of the great builder and his work? Because of Wright’s opinion of this clients.  The great architect considered the man for whom he was building the house as nothing more than a means by which he could accomplish his goals. Wright considered the Martins as nothing more than wealthy ignoramuses who were lucky to live in and pay for one of his marvelous creations. Frank Lloyd Wright didn’t really care what the Martins thought; he was determined to build the house the way he wanted it built!  Was the house sound? Yes.                                                                                                          Was the house pleasing to the eye? Yes.                                                                                   Was the house something that could withstand the cold winters of Buffalo? Yes.  The important question, is *Was the house what the owner Wanted?*The answer to that question was a resounding NO!  The bottom line is this: WHO IS THE OWNER OF THE HOUSE?  Is it possible that we have, in attempting to build what we think a *"great church,*" worked away at something the owner, God, really doesn’t want, or really doesn’t like?  The purpose of the church is for the Harvest of the Community. If we do not understand the purpose of the church, then we will stop short of what God wants us to do as a church. This passage of scripture gives us SIX PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH!  1 - WORSHIP - V. 47 - Praising God.  True worship has nothing to do with a particular style of worship. It is a matter of the heart.  Ps. 29:2 - Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.  Part of the reason to give the Lord the glory due to His name is to let the people around us see how much we do love God.  When we are faced with the Giants of life, it not only helps us to forget about it for a while, but just think what that person is thinking about when they see it also.  The other part of the reason is; God wants His people to worship Him. Not just only in lip service, but in life style service.  2 - FELLOWSHIP - V. 42 - continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread,  There are only two reasons a sinner will come to church.  1) Something happened and he/she knows they need a life changing experience.               2) FELLOWSHIP  Acts 2:42 describes the early church as being devoted to the apostles’ teaching, to eating together, to prayer and to fellowship. The Message translates fellowship as "doing life together."  WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD FELLOWSHIP, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT?  *One writer said*- Fellowship is a oneness of purpose and cause, a setting aside of personal agendas. It is a focused purpose. If we have fellowship, it is based on the fact that we live for and serve Jesus.  WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF FELLOWSHIP? The reason that we have fellowship is to help each one of us to grow in Christ. We are to help one another grow in Christ. We are to encourage each other to live for Jesus.  Ep. 2:19 – Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,  *We are called to belong, not just believe!*  Have you ever thought, what are the benefits of fellowship? It’s for the basic human need and to support one another*.*  3 - MINISTRY - V. 43-45 - many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.  Ministry is a Christian using his or her spiritual gifts for the edification of the church and in service to a lost world. God uniquely gifts His people with abilities in order that His Church may advance.  One of the purposes of the church is to serve, to minister. We sometimes call specific areas of service ministries. The church is called to minister to people. It is called to serve people.  When we neglect this purpose we will end up just sitting and soaking. We will learn a lot about what we are called to do but spending little to no time doing it. When we forget we are called to service, we then change our focus from "What does God want us to do in order to carry out His mission", to "I want what I want."  Ministry is an area that many times we excuse ourselves because we think that someone else will do it.  We need to remember that Jesus came to serve. Mat. 20:28 - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."  EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A SERVANT or MINISTER.  Mat 20:26-28 **-**"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave; "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."  What is a "minister"?A minister is a servant. The word that is translated "minister" is also the same word that is translated "deacon".  We are called to serve God in some way because of what He has done for us.  If the church is not a church that focuses on serving others, then what will happen to us is that we will become friendly to ourselves, we will take care of ourselves, and we will focus our resources on ourselves.  If as a collective body of believers, we are not each focused on serving or some area of ministry, the whole body will be hurt.  If I have areas of ability that I will not use for the body of Christ in Velvet Ridge, then I am hurting the body of Christ in Velvet Ridge. For this body to function, we need each and every part of it to be functioning.  God did not call us to sit on the bench, but He called us to find a position on the field and play the game. What happens on a team when part of the team decides not to do its job?  It is my prayer that each and every member of the Velvet Ridge Church is an active part of the body, that each one of us is serving the body of Christ in some way.  If we are not careful, we may sit back and want to be served. The best way to get out of that is to serve others. Remember that we are to be like Jesus, Jesus came to serve, He came to seek and save those who are lost.  We must care for one another. Because of the fellowship the early church had with each other, when someone had a need the church stepped in to meet that need.  Notice in these verses, (44,45) they didn’t give a part of what was left. Their approach to ministry was not one of,*"I’ll give my time and my energy if I’ve got any left after I’ve done all the things I need to do for myself."*  Their ministry of giving was not one of, *"I’ll pay all my bills and buy all the things I want to buy and then if I have any money left I’ll give it to the church."*They didn’t give what was left of their time, energy and money. They gave up what they would like to have used for themselves, so they could have a part in the ministry of the church.  We must remember the churches primary purpose is not to be a welfare agency. The Bible teaches us; *"you don’t work, you don’t eat."*  If people have a heart for God then they will have a heart to minister. All ministry flows out of our relationship with God. Ministry flows out of what God pours into our hearts and lives.  God has poured his love into our hearts and in ministry we pour that love out toward others. Ministry also flows out of relationship with others. The more relationship or community we have the more ministry will happen naturally and not because it is structured. There is nothing wrong with structure but ministry is more fruitful when it flows out of relationship.  1 Pet. 4,10 – As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.  4 - DISCIPLESHIP - V. 42,46 - they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine. they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple.  Discipleship requires a specific strategy to move a new believer from being a babe in Christ to a mature believer.  *What is a disciple?* A disciple is a learner, or a pupil of someone. In the context of the Bible, a Christian is supposed to be a disciple. Who are we to be a disciple of? Jesus!  The word disciple is used over 250 times in the New Testament and is only found in the Gospels and Acts.  *The Characteristics of a Disciple* Benevolence to the brethren.  Love for the brethren. Love for Jesus. Be like Jesus. Commitment to Jesus. Abide in Jesus.  The objective of discipleship is to facilitate the spiritual growth of Christians. Discipleship is MAKE ONE TO MAKE ONE.  *The Benefits of Discipleship* The Church grows deeper through discipleship. Discipleship gives us principles to live by. A foundation to build our lives on, and that is on the Word of God. It gives us stability.  As we become more Christ-like, we will experience more blessing than we can imagine because of discipleship!  When the church stops making and developing disciples, it is not a church.  For the church to be able to develop disciples there has to be a great deal of involvement in each others lives.   Ep. 4:11-13 – And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;  5 - PRAYER - V. 42 - and in prayers  Prayer is drawing near to God through faith in quiet meditation and with bold requests.  *R. A. Torrey* – Everything that we do as individual Christians and as a church should be bathed in prayer. If prayer does not drive sin out of your life, sin will drive prayer out. We feel that we just do not have time to pray. We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results.  PRAY SHOULD BE A PRIORITY FOR THE CHURCH BECAUSE  Jesus was devoted to prayer Jesus put a priority on prayer.  Luke 6:12 talks about the time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.  Luke 5:16 talks about Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray, when He was busy and tired.  Mat. 14:23 talks about after He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray, and when it was evening; He was there alone.  During His darkest hour, when He was about to be crucified, during His time of deepest need Jesus made time to pray. Luke 22:39-46  Whenever Jesus did something or before He did something, He prayer to God.  When He raised Lazarus, He prayed. John 11:41  How much prayer meant to Jesus! It was not only his regular habit. When perplexed, He prayed. When hard pressed by work, He prayed. When hungry for fellowship, He found it in prayer. He chose his associates and received His messages upon his knees. If tempted, He prayed. If criticized, He prayed. If fatigued in body or wearied in spirit, He had recourse to His one unfailing habit of prayer. Prayer brought him unmeasured power at the beginning, and kept the flow unbroken and undiminished. There was no emergency, no difficulty, no necessity, no temptation that would not yield to prayer.  Prayer should be a priority because God hears us.  Rom 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.  1 Pet. 3,12 - For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."  James 5:16 - Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.  Prayer is the channel from which blessings flow.  Mark 11:24 - "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.  Mat. 21:22 - "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."  John 16:24 - "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.  Prayer is the phone line to God.  Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God’s infinite grace and power.  All that God is, and all that God has is at the disposal of prayer.   Prayer is a way to express thanksgiving to God.  It is probable that in most of us the spiritual life is deprived and stunted because we give so little place to gratitude. It is more important to thank God for blessings received than to pray for them beforehand. For that forward-looking prayer, though right as an expression of dependence upon God, is still self-centered in part, at least, of its interest; there is something we hope to gain by our prayer. But the backward-looking act of thanksgiving is quite free from this.  We can have inner peace from prayer. HOPE  Have you ever notice that when things go bad, most people respond with prayer.  Phil 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  Who to pray for:  The sick need our prayers. Government and church leaders need our prayers. Other churches need our prayers The lost need our prayers.  *Martin Luther*said, No man should be alone when he opposes Satan. The church and the ministry of the Word were instituted for this purpose, that hands may be joined together and one may help another. If the prayer of one doesn’t help, the prayer of another will.  Pray is an important function of the church  6 - EVANGELISM - V. 47 - the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.  *Gregory Baskin*said - The soul purpose of the church is evangelism. To reach lost people. It is not a hotel for the saints, it is a hospital for sinners.  Acts 1:8 – "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."  What is one of the most intimidating things God calls us to do as Christians?  Evangelism is one of the most intimidating purposes of the church. The command to tell everyone about Jesus. To evangelize means to share the good news about Jesus with other people.  Five times, Jesus expressed some form of the Great commission.  Mat. 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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.  Mark 16:15 – And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.  Luke 24:46-49 – And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.  John 20,21 – So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."  Acts 1,8 – But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.  It is Matthews account that best describes our goal in fulfilling this commission: making disciples around the world who obediently follow Christ’s teachings.  Mat. 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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.  A brief look at these texts reveals several basic truths about the Great Commission:  In Matthew and John – Christ is the authority who demands our obedience to the commission.  In Mark and Luke – Not only is Jesus the one who commissions us, He is the focus of our message; that is, the gospel or good news. That is our message.  In Matthew, Mark and in Luke – Preaching, teaching, witnessing and baptizing are strategies employed to fulfill the commission.  In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts – The message we proclaim is for the world.  In Matthew, Luke, John, and Acts – Christ promises us His power and His presence as we strive to fulfill the commission He has set before us.  Yet we never accomplish the Great Commission alone, nor do we ever get through.  *One writer said*– Clearly, preaching the gospel and making disciples of people groups worldwide mattered to Jesus – so these tasks must concern churches today.  In Matthew 28:18-20 we are called to evangelize the world. We are called to reach out to the whole world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  In order for us to be able to tell people about Jesus, we must be able to attract people. This is true of the church and of each of us individually.  As a church we can have all the programs that look good, but if we do not follow the principles that Jesus used to attract people, we will not get the opportunity to use the wonderful programs.  For Evangelism to be successful we must….WE MUST HAVE LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE.  When you study the ministry of Jesus, He attracted crowds because of His love for them.  When Jesus looked at the people, He loved them so much that He wanted more people to be reached with the Gospel.  1Tim. 2:4 - who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.  Jesus did not look at the people like they were a bunch of losers, but instead He looked at them with love. He did not despise them. He pitied them.  Studies have shown that 70%-90% of all people who come to Church because a friend or relative invites them. This happens because a friend or family member has the respect of a person because they have been there for the good times and the bad.  A young boy, on an errand for his mother, had just bought a dozen eggs. Walking out of the store, he tripped and dropped the sack. All the eggs broke, and the sidewalk was a mess. The boy tried not to cry. A few people gathered to see if he was OK and to tell him how sorry they were. In the midst of the words of pity, one man handed the boy a quarter. Then he turned to the group and said, "I care 25 cents worth. How much do the rest of you care?"  James 2:16 points out that words don’t mean much if we have the ability to do more.  For Evangelism to be successful we must….  THE PRESENTATION OF THE GOSPEL MUST BE PRACTICAL AND INTERESTING.  Jesus attracted crowds by teaching in an interesting practical way.  Let us be a church that loves people, a church that is willing to meet people’s needs and a church that presents the Word of God in an interesting and relevant way.  We do not have an option when it comes to reaching out to the lost.  If we are not making the effort to evangelize. Each one of us has a responsibility to reach out to the lost.  I bet every one of us knows someone that does not belong to Jesus. We can start with that person. If we all did that, then at best we will make more disciples. At worst, at least when a person dies outside of Jesus, they will not be able to say that no one cared enough to share. Let us be a church that loves people so much that we hurt when we know someone is lost.  Luke 15:7 - say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.  **Sharing Christ with others is particularly important to the church that seeks true growth**since healthy growth comes primarily through new Christians. A healthy church must provide its members both training and opportunity for evangelism.  *WITH EVANGELISM YOU HAVE TWO COMMANDS BY GOD*  1) TO GO  We’ve already been talking about that in Matthew 28:19-20 - 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.  While you are GOING you are to Teach, Baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teach to observe what Jesus’ commanded us.  2) PRAY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST  Twice you find to Pray to the Lord of the Harvest.  Mat. 9:37,38 – Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.  Luke 10:1,2 – After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. 2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.  So you have Luke and Matthew telling us to PRAY to the LORD OF THE HARVEST.  Let’s break down Matthew.  The harvest truly is plenteous – The crop, "who is the crop?" The crop is many and largely abundant.  The laborers are few – the teachers, the workers are as in number little, short, and small.  Pray to the Lord of the harvest – make request to the supreme in authority, God.  WHAT WILL HE DO? He will send forth the laborers into His harvest.  In Luke you see a little different speech by Jesus, but He is saying the same thing.  The Lord appointed other seventy, and sent them two and two – He is sending folks out like us to work for His glory.  **QUESTION: How do we become involved in EVANGELISM?**  Acts 2:1-4 – And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.  *Glen Wagner put together what churches may be in America.*  The church of networking – a place to make business contacts.  The church of the significant other – where to find that special someone.  The church of social-service-and-needs-fulfillment – no need too great or small.  The church of heavenly investment with earthly dividends – you expect a return for your money.  The church of the country club – celebrate the fact that you have the right to gather and others don’t.  The church of the grand stadium – come and watch great spiritual warriors do battle.  The church of fast-food-restaurant – get what you want fast and easy, then you are on your way.  The church of divine resort – come and have all your needs catered to.  The church of Hell-Fire – turn or burn; others are going to hell. (Aren’t’ you glad it’s not you?)  The church of high hill – it’s high on a hill and totally impenetrable form the outside.  The church of the mega-mall – one-stop shopping center for whatever you could possibly want in a church.  The church of Evangelism – everything leads to getting them up front and saved.  The church of information – teach, teach, teach, and then teach.  The church of latest-programs – keeps you on the edge of your seat with the latest marvels in technology and entertainment.  The church of the Holy Tradition – doing business the same way for 200 years, and are not ab out to change anything now.  YET WE NEED TO BE A CHURCH OF HOPE.  Looking at the Purpose of the church, Toby Morgan says there are at least 7 different items the church should be according to the church of Acts.  1) Acts Chapter 2 Church is a ***"ENERGIZED BY THE SPIRIT CHURCH"***  Let’s ask another question. How energized are we about the church?  Luke 24:49 – And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.  Do we have this power?  2) Acts Chapter 2 Church is ***"ENGULFED IN PASSION"***  Acts 2:46,47 – And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.  George Gallup did a survey of 13,000 people who attended church but no longer do. One question was asked was, "What would need to happen for you to return to church? The number one anser was, PASSION in the lives of MEMBERS and LEADERS.  Passion will teach us that you don’t have to have it all together all the time. BE YOURSELF!  3) Acts Chapter 2 Church is ***"UNAFRAID OF TOUCHING THE LOST"***  Acts 2:41 – Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.  We need to ask ourselves a question, Are we afraid of Lost People? We demonstrate a great fear of lost people when we are intimidated by their presence. For the most part, we are extremely uncomfortable around people who do not know Jesus. Why?  4) Acts Chapter 2 Church is***"GROUNDED IN THE WORD"***  Acts 2,42 – And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.  We receive strength from the Word of God. What is the cure for our powerless age? How can we move from being victims of circumstance to victors who rise above adversity?  Remember the Word is what will set us free.  *IS THE WORD REALLY WORTH MY TIME?*  *Your answer depends on whether you want to know God.*  Ps. 138:2 – I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.  *Your answer depends on whether you want to be blessed.*  Deut. 28:1,2 – And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.  *Your answer depends on whether you want to live a holy life.*  Ps. 119:11 – Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.  *Your answer depends on whether you want to walk in victory over the devil.*  Ep. 6:17 – And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:  *Your answer depends on whether you want to walk in joy.*  Jer. 15:16 – Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.  *Your answer depends on whether or not you want to have eternal life.*  John 8:51 – Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.  *Your answer depends on whether you want to have fellowship with Jesus.*  John 14:23 – Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.  *Your answer depends on whether or not you want access to God.*  Rev. 3:8 – I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.  5) Acts Chapter 2 Church is ***"COMMITTED TO THE MISSION"***  Acts 2:37-39 – Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.  THREE THINGS TO LOOK AT WITH THE MISSION  1) We are to decrease the population of hell.                                                    2) We are to dethrone the devil.                                                                       3) To declare the year of the Lord. We are living in the year of the Lord.  6) Acts Chapter 2 Church will be ***"DEEPLY DEVOTED TO EACH OTHER"***  Acts. 2:46,47 – And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.  7) Acts Chapter 2 Church is ***"FLEXIBLE TO FOLLOW"***  1 Peter 2:21 – For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: | |