

# EASTERN BIBLE CONFERENCE

2006

## "MY ASSEMBLY"

Why do you attend the little assembly in your town? There are probably a lot of places that have nicer buildings, more people, a choir, sports programs, bands, and a host of other things that are designed to make them attractive – to entertain – and to attract large numbers of people. We feel this is a good year – having just gone through a division ourselves – to explore this question with our young people. Our exercise this year is to have you leave at the end of the week with a clearer understanding of what our Lord Jesus was referring to when he said: "I will build my Assembly". I will ask the question again – "Why go to the assembly"? What is special about gathering to the Name of Christ? Is there anything special about our gathering point being a person and not a place? We feel that it is essential for you to be able to answer these questions! We would like to start at the beginning this week with the first mention of the Church in Matthew and the establishment of the Church as seen in Acts. We would like to take distinct areas up each day with you and build upon the foundation that has been laid in scripture. I will ask some questions to start our discussions.

1. WHERE IS THE CHURCH MENTIONED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?
2. WHERE IS THE **FIRST** MENTION OF THE CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?
  - a. Discuss who this was revealed to and by whom?
  - b. In what ***tense*** is the building of this Church spoken of?
  - c. Discuss the meaning of the word "***Church***" or "***Assembly***"?
3. WHERE IS THE **SECOND** MENTION OF THE CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?
  - a. How ***many people*** are mentioned?
  - b. ***Who*** does the gathering?
  - c. What is the significance of the word "***together***"
  - d. Unto ***what*** are they gathered?
  - e. Discuss the ***promise*** connected with this gathering.

4. BEFORE GOING INTO ACTS – LET’S DISCUSS 1 CORIN 12-VS 13
  - a. “For by one *Spirit* are we all *baptized* into *one body* . . . .
  
5. LET’S DISCUSS ACTS – CHAPTER 1 & 2
  - a. *Why* are they in Jerusalem? Acts 1 vs 4
  - b. What *kind of room* are they in? Acts 1 vs 13 Discuss
  - c. Discuss the events of vs 1 thru 8 of Chapter 2.
  - d. What *actually happened* in these verses – see 1 Corin 12- vs 13
  - e. The people of what nation composed the Church? \_\_\_\_\_.
  
6. NOW LET’S LOOK AT ACTS 2:42
  - a. Discuss the *commitment and walk* of the disciples at this time.
  - b. Discuss the Apostles *doctrine and fellowship*.
  - c. How is the Apostles doctrine & fellowship *expressed*?
  - d. How is it *maintained*?
  
7. LET’S DISCUSS ACTS – CHAPTER 8 VS 5,6, 14 & 15
  - a. What do we know about the *relationship* between Jews & Samaritans?
  - b. *What was unusual* about the conversion of the Samaritans?
  - c. Do you think the Jews might have been happy for the Samaritans to have had their own church?
  - d. *Who* did God send to Samaria? *From where?* What did they see?
  - e. What is the significance? Discuss in light of 1 Corin 12- vs 13
  - f. Now the Church is made up of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  
8. LET’S DISCUSS ACTS – CHAPTER 10 – VS 44 –48
  - a. Cornelius was not a Jew nor a Samaritan. *What was he?*
  - b. *Who* went to Cornelius? *What* nationality was he?
  - c. What happened *of significance* in vs 44?
  - d. Now the Church is made up of : \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. I Corin 12 – vs 13
  
9. LET’S DISCUSS ACTS 19 vs 1-6
  - a. *Whose* disciples were they?
  - b. *What baptism* had they been baptized unto?
  - c. What had they *not* received?
  - d. Upon reception of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of the Spirit is complete. Discuss
  
10. DISCUSS EPHESIANS 1- VS 22 The Church which Christ said that he “*would build*” is now seen as a present reality. Discuss

# A DAY OF RUIN

What a glorious time this must have been! There was the introduction of something entirely new upon the earth and God used miracles and signs and wonders to get the attention of those just like you and I. We saw tongues in Chapter 2 and we hear of those who were sick being put in the streets so that just the shadow of Peter as he passed by might overshadow them and the word says they “**were healed every one**”! Acts 5 – vs 15. Then we read of Paul in Chapter 19 – vs 11 that “**from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.**” What times these must have been!! The Gospel was preached with POWER and thousands were gloriously saved. But when God is working – be assured that Satan is very busy also and we are going to look today at the evidence of Satan’s working as well as the failure that we are all a part of.

1. LET’S GO BACK TO ACTS 2 – VS 42 FOR A REFERENCE POINT.  
What Scriptures can we look at to get a glimpse of what would bring an end to this wonderful time?
- 2.. ACTS 5 - Ananias & Sapphira
  - a. Were they **believers**?
  - b. What **specifically** were they guilty of?
  - c. **Who** had they lied to?
  - d. **What** was the penalty?
3. WHAT KIND OF SEEDS DO WE SEE SOWN IN 1 CORINTHIANS?
  - a. **Division** - Chapter 1 – verse 9
  - b. **Contention** – because they were following men.
  - c. They were glorying in the “**wisdom of this world**”!
  - d. A **carnal condition** was OK!
  - e. **Immorality** could be tolerated!
  - f. **Divorce** was acceptable!
  - g. **Gifts** could be used as man wanted to use them!
  - h. **God’s order in creation** was ignored – head coverings treated as just **a tradition** that could be ignored.
  - i. **The Lord’s Supper** was treated as just a common meal!
4. HOW ABOUT ACTS 20 – VS 29 & 30
  - a. Grievous wolves would come in from the **outside**!
  - b. And **from among your own selves** shall men arise. Discuss
5. LET’S DISCUSS 2<sup>ND</sup> TIMOTHY 1 – VS 15

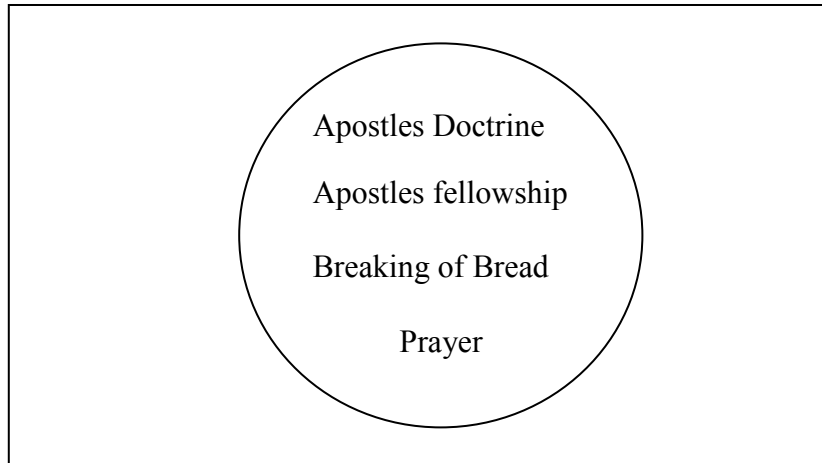
- a. *How many* in Asia had turned away?
  - b. *Who* had they turned from – what does this mean?
  - c. Were they still under *Christian profession*?
6. LET' LOOK AT II TIMOTHY 3
  - a. Of whom is this terrible deterioration spoken of?
7. HOW SERIOUS WAS THIS EVIDENT DECLINE?  
Discuss Jude verses 3 & 4
8. FINALLY – LOOK AT REVELATION CHAPTER 3 VS 14-22
  - a. How does verse 15 describe their condition?
  - b. How did *their analysis* of their condition differ from that of the Lord Jesus?
  - c. In this final Church – *where is the Lord Jesus* in relation to that which professes to bear his name?
  - d. What will the end be of this *Christian profession*?

My how things have changed! We have gone from “**ORDER**” in the House of God to “**DISORDER**” – from a day of glory to a day of ruin in so short a time. So what is the believer to do – where is he to turn in such a day of confusion. How good to have set before us that while **MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED** –

**THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT HAVE NOT CHANGED AND NOW WE WANT TO SPEND TIME ON THEM.**

# LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?

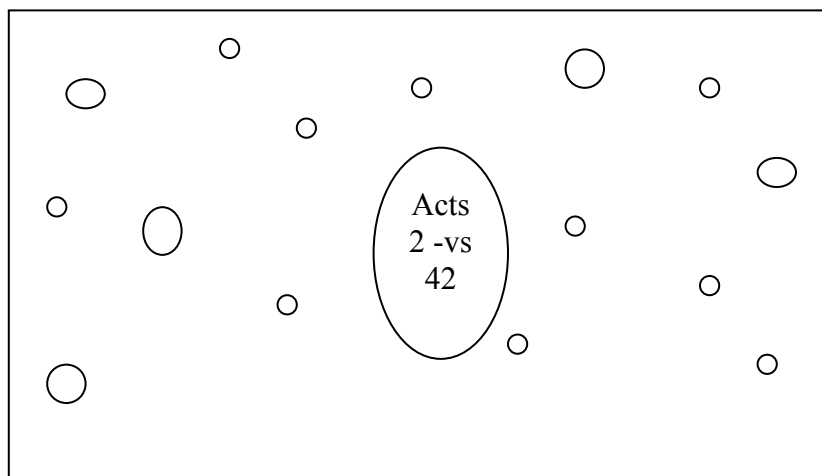
## 1. LET'S TAKE ACTS 2-42 AGAIN AS A STARTING POINT.



The circle above represents things as they were and you could see clearly

who made up the Church. They were all together and there were no divisions – the Holy Spirit's presence was recognized and the saints were "***continuing stedfastly***". They expressed this fellowship in the "breaking of bread" and it was sustained by "prayer".

What has happened to the larger circle? Only one thing! It is smaller. What has caused this? Do you remember the "seeds" that we looked at that had been sown? They have germinated and grown and the effects are seen by the many denominations and sects that have left the original ground of



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Acts 2 – vs 42. Perhaps some wanted to be known by their views on baptism – others on tongues – others liked the rituals of Judaism – others preferred a one-man ministry – still others felt we should be keeping the law – who could begin to give the reasons for all the various denominations that are around us today? Are the ones who have left this original circle still believers? Do they possess gifts from the risen – ascended head of the Church? Are there souls saved among these saints? Are they going to be taken up in the rapture when Christ comes. The answers to these questions are obviously “yes” and we are not to doubt the sincerity of these believers. BUT – the question for us today is –

***WHERE WOULD THE LORD HAVE ME TO BE?***

1. THE ***“GROUND OF GATHERING”*** HAS NOT CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE THAT IS AROUND US AND THAT WE ARE A PART OF. WE STILL MEET ON THE GROUND THAT THERE JUST ONE BODY.
  - a. How has the failure ***altered*** Matthew 18 – verse 16?
  - b. Does the Spirit still ***“gather together”***?
  - c. Can we still gather ***“unto his name”***?
  - d. Will the Lord Jesus still be ***“IN THE MIDST OF THEM”***?
2. OUR GOD HAS NOT CHANGED – ***AND “GOD IS FAITHFUL BY WHOM WE HAVE BEEN CALLED*** UNTO THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. 1 CORINTHIANS 1 – VS 9
3. THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF HAS NOTCHANGED BECAUSE MEN HAVE FAILED? ***“JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER” HEBREWS 13- VS 8***
4. HOW ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD? HAS HE CHANGED BECAUSE MEN HAVE FAILED?
5. THE WORD OF GOD HAS NOT CHANGED!
  - a. The Apostles are gone – but do we still have their teachings?
6. HOW ABOUT THE GIFTS THAT CHRIST HAS GIVEN AS SHOWN IN I CORINTHIANS – CHAPTER 12?
  - a. The Word of wisdom

- b. The Word of knowledge, etc.
7. HOW ABOUT THE MEN THEMSELVES AS GIVEN IN EPHESIANS CHAPTER 4 - EVANGELISTS – TEACHERS – PASTORS? DO THESE MEN STILL FUNCTION THRU THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

## **THE HOUSE OF GOD WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH. 1 Tim 3 - 15**

Thus far in our studies, we have had before us the Body of Christ. We have seen that it is made up of all believers. We have seen that he adds to this body. The unity of this body is not ours to maintain but His.

Now we are going to spend time looking at the Church of the living God in another way and that is as :

### **The House of God**

1. Why is Paul writing to Timothy in the above verse?  
What is one of the key words in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Put simply, I am going to learn that when I speak about the House of God, I am going to have to do with my \_\_\_\_\_ in this House.
3. Discuss the word - Responsibility
4. How is order established in this House? How is order maintained?
5. Who has “rights” in this house?
6. How has the failure that we are a part of changed this? Would we still try and maintain “His rights” when failure is everywhere?
7. Discuss – “Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever” Psalm 93-  
5
8. Discuss the gifts that Christ has given and the setting wherein they are exercised. Why is this important?

9. Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit. Is he an *influence* or is He a *Person*?
10. Let's discuss the Assembly meetings we see in Scripture.
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_

**“ACCORDING TO THE PURPOSE OF HIM  
WHO WORKETH ALL THINGS AFTER  
THE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN WILL”  
EPHESIANS I – VS 11**

As we approach the end of our week, we want to end up seeing what our God is going to do in spite of the failure of men – in spite of our unfaithfulness - aside from anything we can imagine the things we are going to look at ARE going to happen. The line of responsibility is certainly an important area for us to be occupied with – but along side it is the line of God's purposes that are unfailing because they center in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now Lets look at Ephesians 1 vs 10 and 11.

1. Who is going to gather?
2. What is he going to gather?
3. When will this take place?
4. Who does it depend upon?
5. What is it according to?

Lets look at Ephesians 5 – vs 27.

1. Who is going to do the presenting?
2. What kind of church is going to be presented?
3. Look at the description - who has maintained it?
4. Who does this depend upon?



# **WHAT ELSE DO WE LEARN THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN REFERENCE TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST?**

1. PHILIPPIANS 2 – VS 10 & 11
  - a. How many knee's are going to bow?
  - b. At what are they going to bow?
  - c. What locations does scripture give as to these beings.
2. I TIMOTHY 6 – VS 15
  - a. Discuss – “he shall shew” – “the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords”.
3. In spite of all the failure – difficulties – discouragement, etc what Day did the Apostle Paul look forward to? Let's end with a bit of discussion on II Timothy 4 – vs 7 & 8.
  - a. Discuss the three things he *had* done.
  - b. What is “laid up” for him.
  - c. Who will give it to him.
  - d. What kind of a judge is he?