

“The Essentials Of Our Faith”

Session XXVI

April 17, 2011

“The Church”:

The “Body” and “Bride” Of Jesus Christ!

Part Two: “Pentecost – The Birthday Of The Church.”

“The Church stands unique in the purposes of God. While God has related Himself to other groups, His activity with the Church remains distinct. ‘I will build My Church,’ the Lord said, and that is His special work today. Those words of Christ indicate specific distinctions about the Church:

- a) it was a work future to His earthly life;*
- b) it was not the same as the Kingdom about which he also taught;*
- c) it must have been different from the theocracy of Israel.” --Charles C. Ryrie*

“The Church did not exist in Old Testament times but was constituted on the Day of Pentecost. It is distinct to this present time period. Four lines of evidence support this conclusion:

- 1) Our Lord said: ‘I will build My Church’ (Matt. 16:18). He did not say that He would continue to add to something already in existence, but that he would do something not yet begun.*
- 2) The Church could have no functioning Head until after the resurrection of Christ; therefore, it could not exist until sometime after He rose from the dead (Eph. 1:20).*
- 3) The Church could not have been an operating entity with functioning spiritual gifts until after Christ’s ascension (Eph. 4:7-12).*
- 4) The Mystery character of the one Body was unknown in Old Testament times (Eph. 3:3-5; Col. 1:26). In classical Greek ‘**musterion**’ means something hidden or secret. . . . wisdom far above finite understanding. It also includes two ideas: a) a time when the secret was not known followed by a time when it became know; b) deeper or higher wisdom which is revealed to those initiated.*

*What is the **content** of the ‘mystery’ in these passages? **It is that Gentiles would be fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, fellow partakers of the promise***

***in Christ by the Gospel.** (Eph. 3:6) . . . That there would be a 'joint body' in which Jew and Gentile would share **was not revealed** in the Old Testament. A concordance examination of the use of the word '**body**' will reveal quickly and conclusively that the idea of the Body of Christ or of any body into which the redeemed were placed **is nowhere found** in the Old Testament. . . . Clearly, this '**mystery**' was unknown in the Old Testament and because the '**Body**' is the **new man**, it is **not** a continuation or remaking of Israel."* --Charles C. Ryrie

The Events of the "Day of Pentecost"

Acts 2:1-13

A. Historical Background:

The Day of Pentecost was a yearly Jewish observance.

*"**Pentecost** ('fiftieth' day) is called:*

- 1) **The 'Feast of Weeks'** –because it was celebrated seven complete weeks, or fifty days after the Passover, Lev. 23:15-16.*
- 2) **The 'Feast of Harvest'** –because it concluded the harvest of the later grains, Exodus.23:16.*
- 3) **The 'Day of First Fruits'** –because the first loaves made from the new grain was then offered on the altar, Num. 28:26; Lev. 23:17.*

. . . Pentecost owes its origin to the harvest which terminated at this time. It is to be expected that . . . the Jews would recognize Jehovah's bounty with the 'first fruits' of their harvest. . . . The Pentecost was essentially linked to the Passover – that festival which, above all others, expressed the fact of a race chosen and separated from other nations – and was the solemn termination of the consecrated period."
(Deut. 16:1-12) --Merrill F. Unger

B. The Promise of Jesus Christ to His Disciples:

1. The "Appearances" of Jesus to His disciples for _____ days, Acts 1:3.
"To these (apostles) He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God."
2. The "Command" of Jesus to His disciples – to "_____", Acts 1:4.
"Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised . . ."

3. The “Promise” of “_____ **with** the Holy Spirit”, Acts 1:4-5.
“ . . . to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ ”
 --Notice: The “Father” had made a promise through the Son → John 14:16, 26.
 --To send the “Helper” (“Comforter”) = parakletos = “one called along-side to help”
 --Notice: The promise is identified as being “baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

4. The disciples “_____” about the Kingdom, Acts 1:6.
“Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”
 --Notice: Jesus’ correction/instruction of the disciples, Acts 1:7.
“It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.”

5. The association of “_____” with the “Promise”, Acts 1:8.
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
 --Key: The “Church” would not only be “founded” by the power of the Holy Spirit, it would “**operate**” in the power of the Holy Spirit.

6. The “_____” period for _____ days after the ascension, Acts 1:4; 2:1.

Resurrection -----> Ascension -----> Pentecost
 (____ days) (____ days)

C. The Fulfillment of Jesus’ Promise: The “Birth” of the Body of Christ!

1. The “_____” of the Disciples → they _____! (Acts 2:1)

2. The “_____” of the Holy Spirit → Acts 2:2-4.
 - a. The disciples _____ → A “_____” from heaven! (Acts 2:2)
*“ . . . like a violent rushing wind . . .
 . . . it filled the whole house where they were sitting.”*
 - b. The disciples _____ → “_____” (Acts 2:3)
*“ . . . as of fire . . .
 . . . distributing themselves . . .
 . . . and they rested on each one of them.”*

c. The disciples _____ → being “_____” with the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:4.

“ . . . and began to speak with other tongues . . .

“ . . . as the Holy Spirit was giving them utterance.”

--What was this supernatural “utterance”?

“For the sure determination of what Luke meant by this, it is decisive that heterais glossais (‘other tongues’) on the part of the speakers was . . . the same thing which the congregated Parthians, Medes, Elamites, etc.

designated as ‘our own tongue’, v. 8. The ‘other tongues’, therefore, are, according to the text, to be considered as absolutely nothing else than languages, which are different from the native languages of the speakers.

. . . these indeed not acquired by study.”

--Merrill F. Unger

D. The Meaning of these Events:

--The N.T. “Church” was “_____” or created by the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

1. The “Baptism” of the Holy Spirit is _____ by every Believer!
(The supernatural spiritual aspects, not the supernatural “_____”)

a. His “_____” regenerates every Believer!

--I Cor. 12:13 – “Baptism into the “_____”!

b. His “_____” → includes every Believer!

--Rom. 8:9 →

--I Cor. 6:19-20 →

2. Results: After Pentecost in the early Church, and now!

a. “_____” → “signs and wonders” producing “awe” and “amazement”!
(See: Acts 2:43)

c. “_____” → numerical!
(See: Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4)

d. “_____” → Peter, John, Stephen!
(See: Acts 2:14; 3:12; 7:55-60)