

# Being the Church

## Part 1—Our Purpose, Our Calling

### Getting our Bearings: The Early Church in Acts 2

- The coming of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:8, 2:1-4)
- The proclamation of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:22-24, 36-39)

### Our Place in the Story: From Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and even to...Mississippi!?!?

- A brief history of Riverwood Bible Church
  - ⇒ Began in 1947 as a small Bible study in the Greenfield subdivision led by a man named Warren Niles Potts.
  - ⇒ First organized as Greenfield Chapel in 1954. The church remained small (50 or so) and focused intently on the teaching of God's Word and prayer.
  - ⇒ In 1960, the Potts family moved to Pennsylvania and the teaching ministry was taken over by Richard C. (Dick) Barth, who had moved to Jackson to begin the Friends of Alcoholics ministry.
  - ⇒ The church grew and the building was expanded in 1964 and the name was changed twice in a span of a couple of years (Fellowship Bible Church and North State Bible Church). Bill Munnerlyn became the pastor and the church continued to grow.
  - ⇒ It became necessary to have two morning services due to growth and discussions took place about moving the church to a new location. In 1969, Munnerlyn left and Ken Shepherd became the teaching pastor. Soon after, the property at 5228 Old Canton Rd. was purchased and on June 6, 1971 the church officially moved to its current location, changing its name to Riverwood Bible Church.
  - ⇒ In the 1970's, the church began to add ministries like small groups, youth ministry, and fellowship gatherings in addition to the Sunday morning and evening services and prayer meeting. The church outgrew its original facility and the current auditorium was completed and dedicated on July 8th, 1973.
  - ⇒ Ken Shepherd stepped down in 1979 as the teaching pastor and this role was assumed by Dave Foster and later by Dwight Brown. In 1984, the church brought Jerry Clark on as the teaching pastor and one year later Harold Sprayberry joined the staff of the church as the director of youth ministries.
- From the earliest days of the church, the leaders recognized that God was calling them to emphasize three important areas:
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

### Our Purpose as the Church: The Worship of God

⇒ We must be \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

“And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him”—Col. 1:21-22

Worship begins with the \_\_\_\_\_!

⇒ We are to become \_\_\_\_\_ , growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” —Col. 2:6-7

Worship is the way of \_\_\_\_\_ for the believer!

Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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