



LET'S VISIT

**A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935**

Volume 12

Number 16

April 20, 2025

WHAT MAKES A GREAT CHURCH?

The Jerusalem church was a great congregation. It started off with 3,000 and the number soon came to be 5,000. But it was not numbers that made the Jerusalem church great. It was, rather, that the greatness of the church made the numbers.

Sometimes people will look at a church building that cost a great deal of money, and the comment will be made, "That must be a great church!" But the fact of the matter is that the Jerusalem church, the greatest congregation in history, did not own a foot of ground, a brick, or a stone. It carried its work on in a borrowed meeting house. They met in Solomon's temple. They met from house to house, and continued thus for a long time. So it was not the building that made the Jerusalem church great.

Sometimes we think of the greatness of the church in terms of the preacher. It was true that in the Jerusalem church they had some great preachers. They had James, John, Peter – all the apostles were members of the Jerusalem church. But nothing is said in the record that attributes the greatness of the church to the preachers. The preachers in the Jerusalem church constituted a very small minority, as does the preacher in any congregations. People usually attach more importance to preachers than God did. They are evangelists, but they are not originators of anything, and if they are they are wrong. No, the greatness of the Jerusalem church was not dependent on the preacher.

What is the secret of the greatness of the Jerusalem church? When the church was established, there were Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven, gathered together. Men first heard the truth of the gospel. Men began to obey the gospel. 3,000 did so the first day.

What kind of people were these people who first became Christians? The Bible says they were "Jews, devout men." They had come together to worship. They were big enough to realize that God was bigger than they were. They knew that they owed their hearts and their lives to God. They had come across the mountains, the desert and over the sea to worship God. They were devout people.

You cannot build a great church out of people who are not devout, who are not sincere. You have to have the qualities of devotion, respect and reverence in the hearts of people before you can build a great church. It takes people with a sober, loyal devotion to God that will make them ready and glad to endure sacrifices and hardships for the cause of Christ.

The church in Jerusalem was made up of broadminded people. "All that believed were together and they had all things common." That is an important testimonial about those people. It takes little people to divide themselves up into little parties and sects in religion. But people who love God and who love the will of God will be ready to lay aside their sectarian prejudices and the things that put the wall between us. They are willing to speak where the Bible speaks, and to be silent where the Bible is silent.

Nothing sectarian divided the Jerusalem church.
(Continued on Page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 – Shreveport – 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 – 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 – 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



The Sunday Side Of The Cross

**For The Pantry. . .
April 20 – Syrup**

Offering – April 13, 2025 . . \$ 3,148.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

What Makes A Great Church – Continued from page 1

They had the same worship, the same organization, the same rule of faith and practice. "All that believed were together and they had all things common." No wonder it was a great church! It must have been difficult for them all to be together, and to have all things common. They had come from many parts of the country, and from many stations in life. They were shepherds from the hills, fishermen of the sea. They spoke different languages. Their coloring was not the same. Their educational status was widely separated. But they rose above all those things that were different, and "all that believed were together, and had all things common." It takes big people to rise above so many differences, and find their unity and commonness in Christ. But that is what they did in Jerusalem. No wonder it was a great church.

"They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers." When they continued in the apostles' doctrine, they organized the church like the apostles told them to do. They continued "steadfastly" – engaged in the work of the Lord with regularity. You cannot build a great church out of irregular people. The Bible teaches us to "run with steadfastness the course that is set before us",

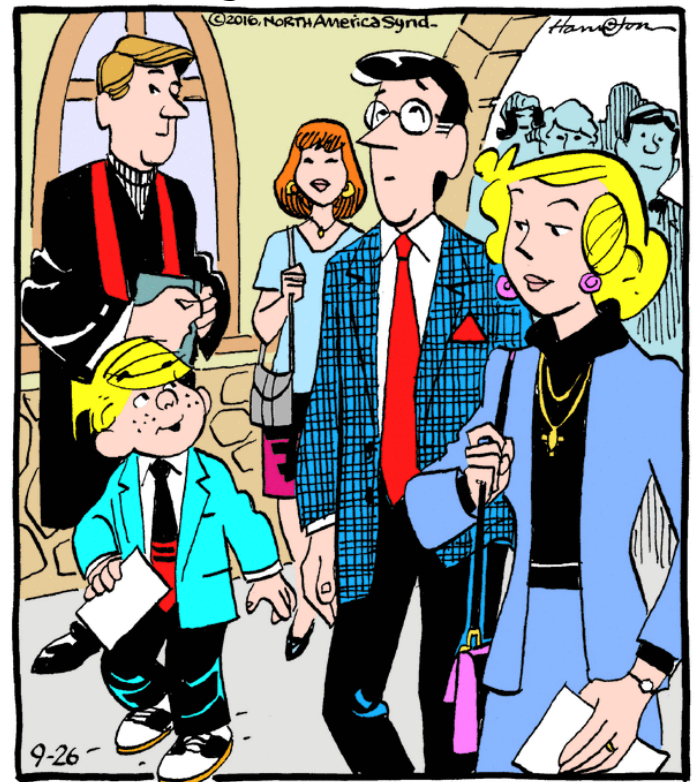
and again, "In your steadfastness you shall win your souls."

The church in Jerusalem was great because the people loved one another. When people stayed in Jerusalem longer than they had planned to stay, their money ran out. But the people who lived in Jerusalem took their goods and possessions and brought them to the apostles and distribution was made as the people had need. Their love was not based on physical acquaintance, or on knowledge of individual needs, but they were willing that their goods should be given to any of the Christians, "As any man had need."

The Jerusalem church was great, not because of its wealth, not because of its political influence. It was great because it was made up of great people – people who loved the souls of men and the cause of Christ, and they were willing to back up that love by giving their hearts in full sacrifice and unselfish devotion.

-Gayle Oler
"Just a Moment"
May 3, 1952

On The Lighter Side. . .



"GREAT SERMON! NOW, AREN'T YOU GLAD MOM MADE YOU COME TO CHURCH, DAD?"



Area-Wide Singing And Gospel Meeting

April 25th, 26th and 27th

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR – NOW!

Area-wide Singing-Friday, April 25th - 7:00 P.M.

Refreshments following the singing

Gospel Preaching –Saturday April 26th - 7:00 P.M.

Covered Dish Luncheon following Sunday Morning Worship.

Phil Sanders, Guest Speaker

Norma Perkins, Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien, Melonia Molloy and Marsha Bounds are in charge of the Hospitality for both the singing on Friday night and the Luncheon on Sunday.

* * * * *

Communion Preparation for April Isaiah & Amanda Molloy



Our next Wednesday Fellowship meal will be on Wednesday, April 30th. Make your plans to be here and meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 for our meal together followed by our monthly singing.

* * * * *

THE TRUCK FROM SUNNY GLEN will be here the week of June 10th. They are establishing a new pick-up schedule and will be coming approximately every 9 months instead of every 6 months.

*Most of us know how to say nothing –
Few of us know when.*



OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Richard Barbee** (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) **David Bissett** (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) **Dwayne Brister** (Cissy Amos' cousin) **Jane Adams Burkhalter** (Diedra Hughes' cousin) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Leta Dozier** (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Emily Heflin** (Mike Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Wynell Lawson** (Diedra Hughes' aunt) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Norma Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **J. C. Tate & Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's father and mother)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

June 1, 2025 – Covered Dish Luncheon
September 7, 2025 – Friends & Family Day
December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday
December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

Can you by an eye of faith visualize what it would have been like to be one of the first people to visit the empty tomb of the risen Lord on the first day of the week? I have tried to imagine how Mary Magdalene and the others must have felt early on that Sunday morning. With the events that had transpired on Friday and Saturday, you know they were weary and dreary due to their lack of sleep. You know their hearts had been crushed by the tragedy of Calvary. The great suffering of their Teacher, Deliverer, Healer and Friend was fresh in their minds. The horrific scenes of Friday were emblazoned on their hearts.

Can you see them rising early that Sunday morning, approaching the tomb where Jesus had been buried? His brutal treatment at the hands of the Romans was fresh in their mind. They could still hear the cracking of the whip and the flowing of His blood. They could feel the damp, foreboding darkness that covered the earth as it convulsed at the sight of God's son being murdered.

Yet, they came to the tomb and they found it empty. An angel said to them, "He is not here, for he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28:6)

Because the tomb was empty that Sunday morning, we have hope beyond this life. Paul would write, "thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:57)

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**