



LET'S VISIT

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THE GREAT JERUSALEM 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 hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps even millions and the comment will be made, "That must be a great church!" Yet, 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 on its work in a borrowed meeting house. They met in Solomon's temple. They met from house to house, and continued this way 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 Bible 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 congregation. 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

(Continued On Page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 - 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



Death. . . Then What?

**For The Pantry. . .
September 3 – Chili (No Beans**

The Great Jerusalem Church – continued from page 1

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. 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 and 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 prayers." When they continued in the apostles doctrine, they organized the church like the apostles told them to organize it. When the apostles told them how to worship, that is how they worshiped. They did what 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, or because of its political influence. It was great because it was made up of great people - people who loved lost souls and the cause of Christ and they were willing to back up that love by giving their hearts in full sacrifice and unselfish devotion.

tp

**Each One Bring One!
53 in '23
Invite Someone Each Week!**

On The Lighter Side. . .



"While I'm preaching, you keep an eye on that kid with the sling-shot."



SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

We are glad you are here and hope you are planning to stay for lunch with us.

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Hospitality Group 1 will be in charge of this luncheon. The members of that group are: Marsha Bounds, LaResa Livingston, Batty Miller, Lisa Miller and Melonia Molloy.

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September 27, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Please make your plans to come and join us.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Mike O'Brien, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston's nephew) **Mitchell Anthony** (LaResa Livingston's brother), **Minion Bean**-(Mike O'Brien's mother) **Aleshia Bradshaw** (Gene & Martha Bradshaw's granddaughter in law) **Brenda Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister in law) recovering from knee surgery; **Curtis Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's brother) recovering from pneumonia; **Ron Cone** (Laura Miller's dad), **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Gail Foster** (Cancer) **Bobbie Gray** (Jerry Pate's Aunt) **Geneva Harrison** (Mike Bostick's mother) **Glynn Hartt** (friend of Cissy Amos) **Suzanne Ihlo** (Martha Jean Golden's sister recovering from a stroke) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Reba Miley** (friend of Debra Pate) **Vervan Pate** (Jerry Pate's brother) is being treated for stomach cancer. **Al Reick** (Robbie Holt's brother-in-law) pancreatic cancer. **Stephanie Richard** (Friend of Norma Perkins) cancer; **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; **Michael Smith** (Debra Pate's cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; **Buddy Sowell** (friend of Debra Pate) **Suellen Swank** (friend of Norma Perkins) **J. C. and Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother and father) **Myrtle Turner** (Norma Perkins Mother) **Wes Wiesemer** (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) recovering from a stroke and also suffering with cancer: **Clark Paul Williams** (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

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

Make your plans to be in Bible Class

9:45 Sunday Morning

7:00 Wednesday Evening



Across The Preacher's Desk

All of us are aware of the "Golden Rule". It was announced by Jesus in Matthew 7:12 when he said, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them". Of course, we are more familiar hearing it as "Do unto others as you would have other do unto you".

However, though we see it practiced more and more in our society, especially by those who would riot, burn and loot, we are not so familiar with the "Iron Rule". Simply stated it is "Do unto others what you would not want them to do unto you". This is the pagan law of life and the law of the jungle. It is the law of those who rob, rape, steal, and beat. It is viciously doing unto others whatever you may wish as long as it serves your own purposes. This is the rule we see practiced in Communist Countries by totalitarian governments. This was the rule in practice when Cain killed Abel in the early morning of time. This is the rule of those who would by brute force attempt to impose their will upon others.

Perhaps, it would do more to bring humanity together and to solve the problem of man's inhumanity to man if people would put the "Golden Rule" into practice and eliminate the "Iron Rule". This might even be something our politicians would want to consider. It just might bring about more unity and harmony in our communities and our nation. I, for one, think Jesus knew what he was talking about.

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
53 in '23!**