

ASSEMBLING WITH THE CHURCH

1. Text: Acts 11:22-26
2. Here is a passage filled with insight concerning the activities of a first century church.
3. Notice: "They assembled with the church." How important was that assembling for early Christians?

I. Assembling In His Name

1. The Lord's promise in Matthew 18:20: Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am in the midst of them. (Under His authority)
2. Response: joy, reverence, responsibility, fellowship, spirituality, care.
3. Church is literally the "called out assembly." To say church of Christ is to say the assembly of Christ. A congregation is more than an assembly but it truly is the church when it assembles.

II. Assembling In Acts

1. In Acts, the inspired account of the early church, was the assembling of the saints important? A thundering yes is the answer. Here are just some of the instances.
2. Acts 2:44,46 The earliest Christians were constantly together, daily (in the temple).
3. Acts 4:23,31 Apostles released went to "their own" or assembled together they prayed.
4. Acts 5:42 Daily in the temple they were teaching and preaching Jesus.
5. Acts 8:1 The church was scattered (and therefore couldn't assemble).
6. Acts 9:19 Saul spent days with the disciples.
7. Acts 9:26-28 Saul tried to join the disciples and could not at first.
8. Acts 11:26 They assembled with the church.
9. Acts 12:5 Prayer offered by the church.
10. Acts 14:27 Church gathered together for a report.
11. Acts 15:4-6 Paul received by church, they came together for decisions.
12. Acts 15:30 They gathered the multitude (of Christians) together.
13. Acts 20:7-8 The disciples came together (to break bread).
14. Acts 28:14 Paul found brethren and was invited to stay seven days.
15. I Corinthians 5:4 Assembling for discipline.
16. I Corinthians 11:17-20 Tragic factions when assembling.

III. Assembling In Focus

1. Assembling by definition: to call or bring together into a group or whole; to fit together the parts or pieces of something; to gather together; congregate; assemble implies a definite, close relationship.
2. To assemble probably to most people implies more than merely to attend. Attend has some negative connotations with just being present versus absent or missing. Assembling suggests more involvement, depth, commitment.
3. Our stress will be on assembling, not attendance.

IV. Assembling In Our Commitment

1. The Elders' renewed stress and commitment.
2. The reasoning behind it:
3. Complicated or simple:
4. More lessons:
5. Plans:

Conclusion:

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