

## **LORD ADDING TO CHURCH**

Our lesson's text (Acts 2:41-47), we studied the Lord added to the Church in (Acts 2:41) and (Acts 2:47).

**“And the Lord was adding (prostithemi/ impf.a.ind.3ps) to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (3000)**

Acts 2 was the first time the local church and the universal church were the same. The Jewish Christian Church in Jerusalem continued this way until Acts 8 when it was dispersed by persecution to Judea and Samaria to fulfill **Acts 1:8**.

Then the church spread by missionary evangelism to Antioch of Syria and became the first Gentile Christian Church (Acts 8-12). From Antioch the Gentile Christian church engaged in a world missionary program of the planting churches through-out the Roman Empire (Acts 13-26; **16:9-10**; Rom.15:24-29) [4<sup>th</sup> Missionary Evangelist Trip by Paul]

**This lesson will study four aspects of the Lord Adding to the Church.**

### **1. There is only one Christian Church in the world. Unfortunately, there are many Christian denominational churches.**

(Acts 20:28) **“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”**

(Eph.1:22-23) **“And He put all things in subjection under the His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”**

From (Acts 2-14), there was one church with two different theological views of mechanics of salvation. Jerusalem Church Conference was held to resolve it.

Two denominational groups were forming in opposition to one another: legalism (Jewish circumcision) churches and grace (no circumcision) churches (Acts 15:1-5, **11**; Gal.2; Acts 21:17-32).

When Jesus Christ returns, He comes for one Church body of believers (1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:50-58).

### **2. The sign of a healthy church is the Lord adding new members.**

(Acts 9:31) **“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built-up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, **it continued to increase.**”**

(Rev.5:9-10) **“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.’”**

It is the responsibility of a **healthy local church to welcome** whoever is being saved and being added to the church by Lord.

An example of this doctrinal point is Cornelius recorded in (Acts 10-11).

**3. The Lord adding believers to the body of Christ is a normal growth pattern of a healthy church.**

The addition of born-again believers is the result of evangelism of the grace gospel (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; John 3:1-8).

There is also the addition of believers who desire to spiritually grow from spiritual baby, to immature, to a mature believer. (Acts 20:32; 1 Pet.2:2; 1 Cor.3:2; Heb.5:13-14; 1 Cor.13:11; 2 Pet.3:18; 2 Thess.1:3; Jas.4:6).

**4. What should disturb a local church is abnormal subtraction.**

**Normal subtraction** within a healthy local church would be death, moving away, inactive believers because of age or disability (home bound).

**Abnormal subtraction** would be apathy (Heb.10:25), carnality (Gal.2; Phil.4:1-3), and reversionism (1 Cor.5; 2 Cor.2).