

Acts of the Apostles 2:39-47 _ Lesson 09

The Pentecostal Church

1. Acts 2:38-40 – Peter’s Call to Israel

- a. *“unto you”* – who? Israel (2:36)
- b. *“afar off”* – Is Israel who is not in the land – Daniel 9:7, not Gentiles – Eph 2:12
- c. *“untoward generation”* – Peter is calling them out (church) of this generation
- d. Jesus came to divide the nation between the true and false Israel – Luke 12:51
- e. The generation had already been condemned – Mark 8:38, Lk 11:29-32, 5051

2. Acts 2:41-43 – The Church in the Temple

- a. *“gladly received his word”* – a reminder of the parable - Matt 13:20
- b. *“same day”* – a small percent of Israel, a large number to baptize in one day
- c. *“the apostles’ doctrine”* – the same as Christ’s - Ro 15:8, Jo 17:18, 20:21
- d. The fellowship was not with Gentiles – Eph 3:9, Matt 10:7, Acts 10:28, 1 Jo 1:6-7
- e. *“prayers”* – Acc. to the law in the temple: Matt 6:9-11, Acts 3:1, Ps 55:17
- f. *“in the temple”* (2:46) – As Jesus did - Matt 21:13-14; Lk 19:46-47, Isa 56:7, Jer 7:11
- g. *“wonders and signs”* – John 4:48, 14:12;

3. Acts 2:44-45 – Sold Their Possessions

- a. Communism is defunct, but it was tried before: New Harmony, Utopia, Plymouth
- b. Karl Marx was influenced by the statements in these passages
- c. No need to make excuses for these verses: Jesus told them to – Matt 13:44, Matt 19:27-30; Lk 12:33, Luke 18:22, Acts 4:34-35
- d. In contrast Paul teaches, if you don’t work you don’t eat – 2 Thess 3:10-12
- e. Romans 15:25-26 should be a sure sign as any that Paul had a different ministry
- f. What God is doing has changed, the kingdom is no longer “at hand”

4. Acts 2:47 – Added to the Church

- a. Church simply means called out assembly/congregation
- b. Not every “church” is the Body of Christ – see Acts 7:38, He 2:12, Ps 22:22, Ex 12:3
- c. *Who is being called?* Israel! Not the Gentiles Eph 2:11, Gal 3:28, Col 3:11
- d. *What is the calling?* Repent, and be baptized, not the glory of the cross.
- e. *What are they doing?* Going to temple, following law, wonders/signs, selling all
- f. *What are they called?* “little flock”, Israel, remnant, righteous nation – 1 Pet 2:9
- g. *What are we called?* Same body, one new man, new creature, body of Christ, 1 Cor 12:12-13, 12:27; Eph 1:22-23; 2:15, 3:6, 3:15, 4:4-5, Col 1:18, 3:15; Gal 6:15
- h. Same God, same Lord, same Spirit; different ministry, different calling, different operation, different church

Reasons Acts 2:47 is Not the Church of Today

“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” – Acts 2:44

Despite the mention of the church at Pentecost in Jerusalem in the temple, the context teaches us that the church, the Body of Christ, of today, is not in mind here. Below are reasons that the church in Acts 2:44 is not the same church of today.

1. The word “church” does not equal the church the Body of Christ. See Acts 7:38
2. The scripture does not mention the Body of Christ church before Paul.
3. The church of today is the subject of the mystery (Eph 3:6, Rom 16:25), what happened in Acts 2 was according to prophecy (Acts 3:21).
4. The church in Acts 2 was made up of Jews only, at that time excluding Gentiles. The Body of Christ church consists of Jew and Gentile, while not holding any standing as Jew or Gentile (Eph 2:14-16).
5. The Body of Christ is called a new creature. What exists in Acts 2 is either old, existing before Acts 2, or prophesied about before Acts 2.
6. The Jew had to fall before Jew and Gentile could be reconciled in one body (Rom 11:32).
7. The offer of the kingdom was made to Israel at Pentecost. If their kingdom had not yet been rejected, how could the church the Body of Christ replace Israel?
8. They were baptized by Christ from heaven with the Holy Ghost at Pentecost; we are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ today (1 Cor 12:13)
9. The church in Acts 2:47 were operating under the law and in the temple.
10. The church in Acts 2:47 sold their possessions according to the Lord’s kingdom instructions. The church today is exhorted to follow a different pattern.
11. There is no indication the church in Acts 2:44 understood the glory of the cross, and the gospel of the grace of God.
12. The church in Acts 2:47 was ruled by the twelve judges of the twelve tribes of Israel.
13. The doctrinal pattern of the church in Acts 2:44 was the “apostles’ doctrine” which was received from the Lord in his ministry to the circumcision (Rom 15:8; John 17:18; John 20:21).