

## One True Church Series 6 – Bold and Committed

Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr.

1. The OT church leadership developed a new organization that severed themselves from the ONE true church of God by rejecting the law and the testimonies.
2. Even though an organization or leadership reject the law and the testimonies, those who choose to continue to “abide” in God's ONE church by faith by keeping both the law and testimonies are known as the “REMNANT.” Remember “REMNANT” status is not based on affiliation of a denomination nor profession but OBEDIENCE and FAITHFULNESS to God's TRUTH, Law and Testimonies.

### Is God a “Respecter of Persons”?

#### **Romans 2:11**

11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

#### **Colossians 3:25**

25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

**“Respecter of Persons” (Greek) partiality, that is, favoritism.**

God's Bible principles and truths apply for ALL generations! God's respect cannot be bought or sold. What applied for the OT Church (Israel), applied to the NT Church, and applies to ALL those who profess Christ today. God does not show partiality because of birth, age, status, education, profession, economic status, nationality, or denomination affiliation.

We are ALL judged by Christ based on our thoughts and actions NOT affiliations nor profession. We ALL MUST stand before the judgment seat of Christ!

**Warning:** When those in the OT rejected the law and the testimonies they became corrupted and were severed from the true ONE Church of God. Unfortunately, the same was true with the NT church. The same is TRUE today. GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS (PERIOD). IF YOU OR I REJECT THE LAW OR TESTIMONIES THROUGH DISOBEDIENCE, CARELESSNESS, WORLDLINESS, EXCUSING SIN, OR IGNORING SIN, WE WILL BE STAINED WITH CORRUPTION! THE ONLY WAY OUT IS TO REPENT AND BE CONVERTED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST BEFORE OUR PROBATION CLOSES.

#### **New Testament Church**

The NT church was a pure church (assembly) filled with the Holy Ghost that kept and taught the law and the testimonies. They were on the Mountain of Truth totally connected to the ONE BODY, CHURCH, FAITH, BAPTISM of Jesus Christ. The leadership of the NT church were humble and pure men and women of God that stay faithful to Jesus and His law and testimonies. They were not a respecter of persons. When sin arose they had to deal with it head on. Example, Ananias and his wife Sapphira who lied to the Holy Ghost. The leadership DID NOT lead the people into sin by teaching, promoting, or excusing it. Even in midst of persecution and execution they did not surrender the law and the testimonies. They kept preaching and teaching it! **As a result, the church grew not only physically, but spiritually.** They stayed on the Mountain of Truth as long as they had

the purity in mind to study God's Word, prayed without ceasing, shared God's truth to others by following Christ's example teaching, preaching, and healing. Both the leadership and the members were "limbs" attached the ONE church of Christ that had hatred toward sin and worldliness.

**The NT church believers were at one ACCORD with the TRUE church of Christ.**

**Acts 2:44 - 46**

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with **one accord in the temple**, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with **gladness and singleness of heart**,

This is what is greatly missing today. We live in a very selfish generation. Professed Christians are more about themselves, "what's in it for me attitude" rather than "what's in it for the kingdom of God and others."

What truly unites the remnant people of God is the Truth of God's word. On the other hand, a church without a vision and purpose of sharing and living according to the explicit Word of God is united together in laziness, complacency, and sin. **Church has become a social gathering rather than spiritual place of growth and transformation that reflects the character of Jesus Christ.**

**The NT Church was committed to teaching and preaching all the doctrines of Jesus Christ.**

**Acts 5:42**

42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, **they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.**

The pure NT Church was committed to teaching and preaching the exact doctrines of Jesus Christ such as victory over sin, the ten commandments, the testimonies of Jesus, the sanctuary message, righteousness by faith, the seventh-day Sabbath, state of the dead, the second coming of Jesus, the gift of the Holy Spirit, plus more Biblical truths.

**What were some of the results of this pure work of true evangelism?**

**Acts 2:47**

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**Acts 4:4**

4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

**Acts 16:5**

5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

**Acts 17:6**

6..... These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

The Jewish "church" leaders and others who rejected Christ and had Him murdered, also rejected the followers and teachings of Jesus Christ after His resurrection. They were vehemently against the

work of the NT Church.

**What will happen when the members of Christ's ONE church are living holy lives and doing the work of Jesus Christ?**

**2 Timothy 3:12**

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

**Psalms 37:12**

12 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

**What did Jesus prophesy to the Jewish leaders that they will do to God's righteous people, the NT Church of Acts?**

**Matthew 23:33 - 36**

33 *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*

34 *Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:*

35 *That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.*

36 *Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.*

**Did Jesus also reveal this prophecy to his disciples? What did he say? And what words of encouragement did He give them and us?**

**John 15:20 – 21**

20 *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

21 *But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.*

**John 16:1 - 4**

1 *These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.*

2 *They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.*

3 *And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.*

4 *But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, **ye may remember that I told you of them.** And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.*

**Matthew 10:21 - 27**

21 *And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.*

22 *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but **he that endureth to the end shall be saved.***

23 *But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.*

24 *The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.*

25 *It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?*

**26 Fear them not therefore:** for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

**27** What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* **preach ye upon the housetops.**

**Remember at this time none of the 12 disciples were being persecuted. The only one really being persecuted was Christ.** John the Baptist was beheaded at the time of the ministry of Christ. At the time that Jesus was ministering on the earth the disciples were spared temporarily. The disciples were students of Truth living in the time of preparation for a great crisis and movement for the kingdom of God.

**Did Jesus' prophecy about the future persecution of the NT Church of Acts happen as prophesied?** Yes. Let's look at it.

From 31 AD to around 34 AD the NT Church focused on preaching Jesus Christ to their fellow Jewish brothers and sisters. Remember the 490 years probation of the Jewish nation was about to closed as prophesied in Daniel 9:24. For 3 ½ years more years since the death and resurrection of Christ, God pleaded for the Jewish nation to repent and be converted.

**As the message of Truth was preached powerfully to the Jews, how did the Jewish leaders react?**

#### **Acts 4:1 – 3**

1 And as they (Peter and John – after lame man healed) spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they **laid hands on them**, and **put *them* in hold** unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

#### **Acts 4:13 – 18, 21**

13 Now when they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were **unlearned** and **ignorant** men, they marvelled; and they **took knowledge of them**, that **they had been with Jesus**.

14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them *is* manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny *it*.

17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done.

#### **Acts 5:16 - 18**

16 There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were **filled with indignation**,

18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and **put them in the common prison.**

**After God miraculously released Peter and other apostles they continued to teach the Truth. When they were brought before the Jewish council what did they do?**

**Acts 5:40**

40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and **beaten them**, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

**From 31 to 34 AD**, notice from the beginning of the NT movement in ACTS, mainly the leadership such as the disciples of Christ like Peter and John suffered persecution. They were mainly threatened, unjustly condemned, jailed, and beaten. No one was put to death at this time.

**Did persecution stop the apostles from preaching and teaching the truth of Jesus?**

**Acts 5:41, 42**

**41** And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

**42** And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

The apostles got BOLDER and bolder. As they got bolder the persecution persisted and got worse to the point of MURDER! What signaled Jewish nation's total rejection of Christ was when they killed the NT Church of Acts first martyr, Stephen, in 34 AD.

**After the stoning of Stephen in Acts chapter 7, the Jewish leaders were thirsty for more Christian blood!** All the original 11 disciples (the 12<sup>th</sup> disciple Judas who betrayed Jesus hung himself) were killed by the Jewish leaders or Roman government, besides John. They tried to kill him but God continually preserved his life. So they imprisoned him on the Isle of Patmos instead.

The Blood of God's people of the NT Testament church after 34 AD flowed. The periods of persecution and/or execution of God's people during the time of the NT Testament church was very intense at times followed by less intensity and periods of rest. (Intensity persecution chart)

**Why did God allow His pure NT church of Acts to go through intense persecution in which many lost their lives?**

**To be continued....**