

# APOSTOLIC STUDIES, ON THE PRIMITIVE OR INFANT CHURCH OF CHRIST.

## (5.) THE BELIEVING PEOPLE: Acts 2: 42-47.

**I**T was a most wonderful event that transpired on the day of Pentecost, in the salvation of so many souls who believed in the glorified Jesus. And although the change wrought in them was so sudden, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, yet it was not merely emotional and shortlived. It was a permanent work, and manifested a real change of heart and life; as they continued steadfast and faithful in the grace given by God.

By Peter's first sermon, they were enlightened in the truth; they saw that he was in earnest, and filled with the spirit of Truth; and they received his teachings as coming directly from God. There was not in Peter's discourse any circumlocution, any romancing, any poetical form of words; but the pure and simple Law and Gospel of Christ. He preached the truth, and kept himself behind the Cross. He encouraged them by saying that the promise was to them and their children (verse 39). They gladly received the word, and acted on their convictions, by evincing repentance, faith, open confession, conversion and consecration. They accepted the Lord Jesus as the Messiah and as their Saviour and their Lord.

They also used these four necessary means to continue steadfast:—

1st. Believing the Apostles' doctrine or teachings;

2nd. Holding Christian fellowship one with another;

3rd. Breaking of bread, in remembrance that Christ died for them; and

4th. Prayers, that they should be kept by the mighty power of God. By this course of daily proceeding, the blessed fruits of faith were seen to follow, namely:

1st. A fear, or feeling of awe, came upon every soul;

2nd. A development of power in wonders and signs by the Apostles' hands;

3rd. Mutual love was made manifest;

4th. Unselfishness and true charity were exhibited;

5th. They delighted in public ordinances of religion daily, as well as private;

6th. They went from house to house, breaking the bread of life and mixing socially with families;

7th. They praised God with gladness and

singleness of heart; enjoying favor with all the people; and

8th. By these means the Lord, through their instrumentality, added to the Church daily, such as should be saved.

Let all friends suffer a suggestion, offered in deep humility.

Why cannot all the Churches have such meetings as these, at convenient seasons two or three times a year, from one Sabbath to another?

Why are evangelists so successful in winning souls?—as Moody and Sankey, Jones and Small, and others nearer home? Is it not because they are filled with the Spirit, speak from the heart, are thoroughly in earnest, pray much, and enlist the people to work for God, who is the same yesterday, to-day and forever? These are the true secrets of success where the fruits are wholly good and enduring. In some cases, no doubt, mere novelty, noise and excitement will win multitudes; for the worst classes are often attracted by slang, impudence, and attacks on rulers, or even by sensuality as among the Mormons; but their end is bad, like their conduct. How different from the work of God's Spirit, whose fruits are holiness, and the end eternal life in heaven!

C. Y.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

(FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.)

**M** was by a king advanced to honor, power and might;

**N** of his vineyard was despoiled, though precious in his sight;

**O** took a heathen city strong; and thereby won a wife;

**P** was a king, whose heart was hard, who thereby lost his life;

**Q** was the food the Israelites did in the desert eat;

**R** taught her son to cheat his sire with treat of savoury meat.

C. Y.

**DEAR CHILDREN.**—Your names and your answers are all kept safely recorded, and will be published, with the Prize List, in due time. Those that go on to the end will win.

**ANSWERS FOR FEBRUARY:—A, Ai; B, Bartimæus; C, Caleb; D, Dorcas; E, Elijah; F, Festus.**

A correct answer to Judge Young's Biblical Questions in the letter 'X', came too late for last number from A. J. McKinnon, East Lake Ainslie, C.B.