

God's Plan For A Successful Church

1

Text: Acts 11:19-30

Introduction:

- A. * A successful Church is not necessarily a big church.
* Successful means "to achieve the desired goals, objectives, "
- B. * The word Church means "a called out assembly"

*The Local New Testament Church is the Lord's visible called out assembly of saved, scripturally baptized believers who have covenanted together to carry out the instructions and practices as found in the Bible and the believe the Bible (AV 1611, KJV) to be the final authority for faith and practise.

*So, a church's success is not measured so much by the size of its membership but by how it achieves its desired goals and objectives.

* If you think about it , how successful is a church if all they have to show is just a large membership that isn't meeting its desired goals as enumerated in the Word of God.

C. *This ^{evening}~~morning~~ in our passage we will look at the Church of Antioch which possessed characteristics of successful church.

^{the} *From the Church of Antioch, we will the see the characteristics of a successful church.

I. THE SUCCESS OF ANY CHURCH DEPENDS UPON THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD.

- A. Acts 11:21 - "And the hand of the Lord was with them:..."
- B. *Man is not the indispensable ingredient.
*God is the supreme necessity. - See I Cor. 3:6-7
*If God isn't in the work, forget, all it is a outer shell religious routine.

II. THE SUCCESS OF ANY CHURCH DEPENDS UPON THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. Acts 11:19 - "...preaching the word..."

*When a church begins to leave off the preaching of the Word of God, trouble is ahead.

*The preaching of the Word of God is of paramount importance in the Lord's Church.

***Nothing is to take the place of the preached Word of God.**

B. *Paul, the Apostle gave Timothy the following charge in **2 Timothy 4:2**
"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

C. Paul tells us preaching the word, pleases God - I Cor. 1:21:

"...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

III. THE SUCCESS OF ANY CHURCH DEPENDS UPON THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF TEACHING.

A. **Acts 11:25-26: vs. 26 - "...taught much people"**

*Barnabas and Paul taught the people at Antioch.

*The ultimate success of a church depends upon one generation teaching and grounding the next generation in the truths of God's Word.

B. The purpose of teaching is two-fold:

1. That people might know the truth.

*Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:2 - **"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."**

2. That people might observe.

*Jesus said in Matthew 28:20 - **"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world. Amen."**

*The purpose of teaching is so people may know how the Lord would have them live their lives and that they would do what he commanded.

C. No Church can prosper and be successful in the eyes of God without being dedicated to teaching the Word of God.

IV. THE SUCCESS OF ANY CHURCH DEPENDS UPON THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT.

A. Notice the missionary spirit of the church at Antioch - **See Acts 13: 1-3.**

*God blesses a mission-minded Church.

*A church who will support Missionaries with prayers and offerings will be blessed of God.

B. A Church that is not Missionary in spirit and practice cannot claim to be a ~~success~~ Church.
successful

C. **The Lord's command - Acts 1:8 - "...ye shall be witnesses..."**

*How can we be witnesses to the uttermost part of the earth and fulfill our Lord's command unless we support missionaries?

V. FOR A CHURCH TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE CHURCH MUST BE A GIVING CHURCH.

A. **Acts 11:29-30, -READ -** God's work is to be supported by the offering of God's people.

*Our verses show that mission support to be given thru local church.

B. God loves a cheerful giver. **See II Cor. 9:6-8 - Preach it!**

*Want to give
v7 "purpose in his heart" not because
have to*

***Connection between sowing and reaping**

under grace

C. The scriptures tells that we cannot out give God. - **See Malachi 3:7-10.**

not law

Vs 7 & 8 tells us if you are not tithing, then you have turned away from God.

VI. A CHURCH CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL UNLESS THE CHURCH IS CHRIST-LIKE.

A. **Acts 11:26 - "...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."**

*Christian means "Christ-like"

B. **Galatians 5:22-23 READ -** Christ-Like Characteristics.

C. Titus 2:11-12 - READ - Christ-Like Characteristics

VII. A CHURCH CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL UNLESS THERE IS FAITHFULNESS.

A. Acts 11:23, "...and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord."

*Barnabas encouraged the people of Antioch to make up their minds to be faithful to the Master.

B. I Cor. 4:2 - Paul the Apostle tells us "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

* A steward is a person who another's possessions are given into his hands to take care of as if they were his own.

* Christian you are a steward.

* You are God's steward and He has given some things of His to for you to take care of and be faithful to: *The gospel*

*His money, His Time, His talents, His church, His son, His scriptures, His saints, His sanctuary, His souls, lost souls that need to be ministered to and saved.

*Christian are you faithful stewards of what God has given you?

*He won't give you much unless you are faithful in little.

*Do you redeem the time, the times we live in are evil, he is coming back at any moment.

*Do you use your time for spiritual matters which for eternity or things of this world, which are like a vapor and will soon vanish away?

*You see Christian a success of a church is not measured by size, programs, the largest Sunday school in America, biggest bus ministry, greatest choir.

*We know that man looks on the outward appearance but God looks at the heart.

*We have seen this ^{evening} morning by the church at Antioch as an example of the characteristics of a successful church are: *God's plan for a successful church*

*Depends upon the presence and power of God

*Depends upon the presence and power of the Word of God - Preaching.

*Depends upon the presence and the power of teaching of the Word of God.

- *Depends upon the presence and power of the missionary spirit
- *The church must be a giving church to be successful
- *The church must be Christ-Like in its testimony to be successful.
- *There must be faithfulness among its members for a church to be successful.

*All of this is based on the Word of God not on what Dr. Slipjaw says in his latest book on "What makes a Church successful"

*Open Door Baptist Church is a successful church if we are doing what the church at Antioch was doing based on the Word of God.

- *Let us never forget that!!!
- *When Satan tries to whisper something different in your ears.

*Our emphasis here at ODBC is preaching and teaching the Word of God, the AV 1611, King James Bible which just doesn't contain the Word of God but is the inspired, preserved, infallible, inerrant, in every word as written. Amen!!! *for message of God*

*We have a burden for missions.

*We are a giving church and try to meet not only the physical need of the communities but more importantly the spiritual need for the Word of God.

around us

*Through our soul winning, seed sowing ministries - nursing home, cable, letter writing, tract distribution.

*We emphasize living a life that is Christ-Like, that we have a good report without.

*We emphasize being faithful to the things of the Lord.

*Being humble. We have no room for Prima Donna's here.

* *plenty of hard work to be done - need laborers!*

PLEA and Pray.