

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019

MORNING MESSAGE

“Characteristics of a Persecuted Church”

Acts 4:23-31

- I. IT IS A PARTNERING CHURCH (v.23)
 - A. The people (v.23a)
 1. “Company” means “their own kind”
 2. 1 John 3:14, “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren”
 - B. The purpose (v.23b)
 1. They reported all that the chief priests and elders said unto them
- II. IT IS A PRAISING CHURCH (vv.24-28)
 - A. Their praise was based on their Source (v.24)
 1. “Lord” translates the Greek word “despotes” that gives us the English word “despot”; it describes an absolute master, one who has complete control
 2. John 1:3, “All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made”
 3. Colossians 1:16, “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him”
 - B. Their praise was based on the Scriptures (vv.25-26)
 1. The Holy Spirit reminded them of Psalm 2
 2. Judaism is the only religion that can bring its sacred writings into Christianity
 - C. Their praise was based on their Savior (v.27)
 1. Jesus is called “thy holy child”
 2. Luke 1:35, “therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God’
 - D. Their praise was based on God’s sovereignty (v.28)
 1. All that happened to Jesus was planned by God
 2. It was determined by “thy hand” and “thy counsel”
- III. IT IS A PRAYING CHURCH (vv.29-30)
 - A. They prayed for boldness (v.29)
 - B. They prayed for blessing (v.30)
- IV. IT IS A POWERFUL CHURCH (v.31)
 - A. God answered the prayer of the persecuted church
 1. There was a shaking sign (v.31a)
 2. There was a spiritual sign (v.31b)
 - a. “Filled” means to be controlled
 3. There was a speaking sign (v.31c)