

YOKEFELLOW

Vol. 50, No. 3

JUNE - OCTOBER 2023

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The First Century Blueprint For Evangelism

B. J. Clarke

Some ridicule the suggestion that the first century church ever could provide a blueprint for 21st century churches. They ask, "Which New Testament church do you want to use as a blueprint? Do you want to imitate Jerusalem, with its neglect of the widows? Or, do you want to be like Corinth, with its divisions, lawsuits among brethren, abuse of the Lord's supper, denial of the resurrection, etc.?"

Such questions distort what is meant by the idea of the "first century blueprint." The plea to use the New Testament church as a blueprint is not a plea to imitate every single thing a local church of the New Testament is recorded to have done. Rather, it is to imitate the churches of the New Testament only insofar as they imitated the will of God. Just as Paul was to be imitated only as he imitated Christ (1 Cor. 11:1), so, likewise, the churches of the New Testament should be imitated only wherein they followed the counsel of God! The inspired Word of God is the pattern! Hence, based upon the inspired Word of God, consider the first century church as a blueprint for evangelism, especially as recorded in the Book of Acts.

The Builder Of The Church Provided The First Century Blueprint For Evangelism

Jesus gave the original blueprint when He commanded His disciples to take the gospel to every creature of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). The blueprint called for gospel preaching to begin in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-4; Luke 24:47), and then spread to Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8). The message of Romans 1:16 explains the reason why the churches in Acts were so devoted to preaching the gospel rather than relying on gimmicks. There is power in the Gospel!

The First Century Church Followed The Lord's Blueprint For Evangelism

The Word was preached in Jerusalem, on Pentecost, and about 3000 gladly received it and were baptized (Acts 2:14-41). In the days immediately following Pentecost, the church continued to grow on a daily basis (Acts 2:47). In the weeks, months, and years, which followed Pentecost, the church continued to multiply and grow on a daily basis because those that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:1,7; 8:4, 12; 9:31, 42; 11:19-24; 12:24; 13:44-52; 16:5; 19:20).

How Well Are We Following The First Century Blueprint?

If the blueprint of preaching the gospel worked so well for the first century churches of Christ, should not modern-day churches of Christ be eager to do the same? If we sow the seed of the kingdom, the Word of God, (Luke 8:11) bountifully, we shall reap a bountiful harvest. The seed, the Word, still has power resident within it. Yet, the power of the seed never will be unleashed until the seed is merged with the soil. When a sower goes forth to sow good seed, and that good seed falls upon good soil, the growth surely will follow. Conversely, when we fail to sow the seed, there is no possibility for growth. If we sow the Word sparingly, we shall reap sparingly. The first century church spread the Word far and wide (Rom. 10:18; Col. 1:23; 1 Thess. 1:8) and that is why the church grew abundantly. The same blueprint will work still today! **Please pray for us as we endeavor to send more sowers out to Preach the Word!**

foundations

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10



Foundations 2023 Boy Campers



Jacob Kennedy receives the
Tate Williams Award



B.J. Clarke presents Isaiah Thomas with
the Tate Williams Award



Tanner Cain receives the
Phillip Patton Award



B.J. Clarke presents Garrett Crocker
with the Joe Crockett Award



Hunter Cain is awarded the
Tate Williams Award



B.J. Clarke presents Jordan Bohanan
with the Barnabas Award



Foundations 2023 Counselors



Brooke Clarke Tate & B.J. Clarke
present Ella Gehlert with the
Sherrie Clarke Award



Neva Trosper receives the
Priscilla Award



B.J. Clarke presents Elizabeth Leland with
the Abigail Award



Foundations 2023 Girl Campers

OUR THEME FOR 2024 IS

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