

# CHART LESSON

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH BEGINNINGS

### 1. Beginnings

- a. We are starting here and now, but the church began thousands of years ago
- b. Beginnings define us: our identity, our form, and our function, purpose, pattern.
- c. In the beginning we are named - Grace Ambassadors Bible Fellowship... why?
- d. When we talk of being *mid-Acts Pauline* we are talking of our beginning.
- e. We are not disconnected from Biblical history.

### 2. Church History / Misplaced Churches

- a. We must take care not look in the Bible where we want to be, to defend what we do
  - i. Rather, we must read the Bible to see where we are, see what God is doing
- b. Genesis - No concept of church - creation, marriage, family, children, promises
  - i. Home church? Focus on family & Genesis -sometime Acts (church transition)
- c. Exodus-Deut - Creation of a nation, covenants, laws, temple - liberation, prosperity
  - i. National church? Roman Catholic (Reformed), Mt. Pisgah (Balaam), Sinai
- d. Samuel, David, Solomon - Israel's religious ways (kings), worship, wisdom
  - i. Church as worship services (Psalms and Proverbs)
- e. Prophets - Repent, judgment, warning, watching, news, signs of the times
  - i. Discernment ministries - preach against sin. Dispensational?
  - ii. First Baptist (who was the first Baptist? John? Aaron?)
- f. Matt-John - Jesus: Son of God, kingdom, parables, discipleship, Lord's prayer/supper/baptism
  - i. Sacraments/ordinances? Allegorical preaching, follow Jesus, holy days
- g. Acts - Giving of the Spirit, power, signs/miracles, church (progressive revelation)
  - i. Pentecostal - but also every church who believes in spiritual gifts/missions
- h. Hebrews-Rev - Suffering, enduring to end, love & works, Lamb slain, return & reign
  - i. Kingdom now - spiritual Israel, Jesus the high priest, new testament
- i. The Bible description without the revelation given to Paul is missing the capstone.
- j. Paul - grace, body of Christ, one in Christ, church, walk after the Spirit, mystery
  - i. Church mentioned exactly 3x in 4 gospels. 8x before Paul. Grace only 6x.
  - ii. Gospel 6x after Paul, 17x in gospels, 71x by Paul (Rom 2:16, 16:25, 2Ti 2:8)
- k. "Last of all" 1Co 15:8 - A revelation from Christ of gospel, grace, church, mystery

### 3. Where We Are

- a. A building is not the church. It is a place where the church meets.
- b. Where the building is does not matter ... where we (church) are in the Bible does.
- c. Grace (our gospel) Ambassadors (our ministry) Bible (our belief) Fellowship (unity)