

Introduction

8 years ago this month I came to Rock Pike – that was April 2013.

During the past 8 years, we've seen many things change & we've seen many people grow.

The church has grown in size, produced fruit, been purged & is now going through another season of growth.

In this new season, it's my desire to become a church that GOD intends for us to be - collectively & individually.

Matthew 16:18 ~ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

This week we begin a new series called: ***"A Biblical Church"***.

What is "A Biblical Church"? How did the church get started? Who were the first members? What was its mission?

The Book of Acts is a great starting point & that's where we will be through this series.

We will be looking at the first church & asking a very specific question:

"Is Rock Pike Baptist Church a Biblical Church?"

Acts 1:1-14

Background

The book of Acts is written by ***Luke, the beloved physician.*** ~ (Colossians 4:14)

It is most likely that Luke wrote Acts, approximately 30 years after the Resurrection of JESUS, around A.D. 60-62.

Acts is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke & is the bridge between The Gospel's & The Church.

Luke had an eyewitness account of the first church & the Apostle's, providing us an accurate description of the impact JESUS had on the church & the spread of the Gospel over the next three decades Luke addressed both Acts & the Gospel of Luke to Theophilus.

Although not much is known about him, it is apparent that Theophilus was a prominent Roman authority, as Luke referred to him as ***most excellent Theophilus.*** ~ (Luke 1:3)

With that in mind, let's begin – taking a closer look at the first church.

Here are some things we can do to be "A Biblical Church"?



Senior Pastor, John Sines Jr

1. GET TO KNOW JESUS

† Acts 1:1 ~ The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2. BE KINGDOM MINDED

† Acts 1:3 ~ To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

3. WAIT ON THE LORD

† Acts 1:4 ~ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he, ye have heard of me.*

4. RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

† Acts 1:8 ~ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

5. KEEP YOUR EYES ON HEAVEN

† Acts 1:10 ~ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

6. EXPECT JESUS TO RETURN

† Acts 1:11 ~ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

7. STAY IN PRAYER

† Acts 1:14 ~ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

CONCLUSION: *Three main keys to being “A Biblical Church”:*

*The HOLY SPIRIT must: DIRECT
CONTROL
EMPOWER*



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