

FOCUS ON THE CHURCH

I Samuel 4:19-22

The same way God withdrew His glory from Israel is the same way He withdraws His glory and His presence from a ministry or a local church when that ministry turns away from God's ways.

How can we make certain that this local assembly called Berean Baptist Church will never have the word ICHABOD written over the front door and that we will remain faithful until Jesus comes back?

FOCUS ON THE FOUNDATION

Matthew 7:24; 16: 13-18; I Corinthians 3:9-11 As the Apostle to the Gentiles Paul tells us that we are all laboring within the church as we minister to each other using the gifts given by God. We are to remember we are building for Jesus the Rock and foundation of the church.

Acts 2:42 The way to keep our church focused on Christ as the foundation is to never leave the doctrines of the early church. As the early church grew they stayed strong in the Apostles doctrine.

Jude 3-6 Jude, our Lord's brother adamantly warned the believers of his day to not stray from the doctrines that they first learned. He warned them about straying as Israel did and God's angels did.

Foundational Fundamentals: 1. The innerancy of God's word (**Psalm 12:6-7; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20**).

2. The Deity of Jesus (**John 1:1; John 20:28; Hebrews 1:8-9**). **3.** The virgin birth of Jesus (**Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:27**). **4.** The blood atonement of Jesus Christ (**Acts 20:28; Romans 3:25, 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:12-14**). **5.** The bodily resurrection of Christ (**Luke 24:36-46; I Corinthians 15:1-4, 15:14-15**). These truths are necessary to be saved.

FOCUS ON PREACHING

I Corinthians 1:21 Many churches have moved away from the important doctrine of preaching the bible. They use personal stories, humor, dramatic productions and modern music along with a few scriptures to tickle the ears of the members and send people home spiritually empty.

Acts 17:2; II Timothy 4:1-5 The Apostle Paul not only practiced teaching and preaching, he insisted that those he trained and left in charge within the churches he established to preach sound doctrine.

Acts 20:27-28 Paul's warning to the church leaders of his time is the same warning preachers should heed today. Many congregations today get a steady diet of the preachers favorite topics but do not understand the whole counsel of God. We do not "feed" our children just what they like do we?

FOCUS ON SOULS

Matthew 4:18-20 As soon as Jesus began His earthly ministry He made it very clear why He would call people to follow Him. Every person that is born again must take up the banner of winning souls.

Luke 14:23 If Jesus was not directly doing soul winning He was talking about it to all those people around Him. No church can stay spiritually alive for long without being busy trying to win the lost.

Acts 2:42-47; 5:12-14 Within the early church was much unity of doctrine. They had God's blessings on them because of prayer, unity, sacrifice, and caring for the souls of their lost loved ones.

FOCUS ON BELIEVERS

Acts 2:42; II Cor. 1:3-4 Fellowship with other believers strengthens us spiritually and emotionally.

Galatians 6:2, 10 As believers within the same local church we can help and encourage each other.

Romans 15:14 Paul teaches us that we are to gently reprove and admonish one another in love.