

## A Model Church - cont.

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12; John 15:20; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:16).

### A Rejoicing Church (Acts 2:46; 5:41)

Ninth, the Jerusalem church was a happy and rejoicing church. They did not let the challenges of being a church cause them to get upset and turn negative. The problem today is that many Christians have lost their zeal and enthusiasm in serving the Lord.

When you look at the joy of the Jerusalem church, you find that it came from:

- *Salvation from Christ* - they had just been baptized (2:46).
- *Serving for Christ* - they continued to worship the Lord (2:46).
- *Society with Christians* - they spent time daily with their fellow-saints which made them happy (5:41).

The solution for unhappy Christians today is to remain happy at all times knowing that we have so many blessings in Jesus (Psalm 16:11; 51:10-12; Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4). - *Chris Reeves*

## - Scripture of the Week -

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*“ Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, rejoice.”*  
- *Philippians 4:4* -

When so many people in the world are unhappy, I will rejoice this week because I am “in the Lord” and I am blessed. I will rejoice “always”, even in bad times, and I will help others to have that same joy.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ  
290 Warfield Blvd.  
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website  
wbcoc.org

Radio Program  
Sundays: 8:30 - 9:00 am  
WVWB FM 105.1 The Wolf

Assembly Times  
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 5 pm  
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Everyone Is Welcome!  
For More Information Call  
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By  
Chris Reeves  
(615) 389-3250  
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com  
TheGoodTeacher.com

## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

## Jerusalem: A Model Church (Part 3)

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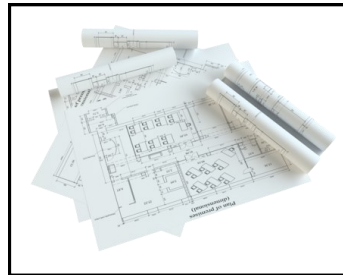
In the bulletin the past two weeks, we have studied how the Jerusalem church in Acts 2-12 is a good model for all local churches today. They set the right example of how to faithfully serve the Lord on a weekly basis. We have noted that they were a:

- A Converted Church ( Acts 2:37-41).
- A Worshipping Church (2:42, 46-47).
- A Learning Church (Acts 2:42; 5:42).
- A United Church (Acts 2:44-46; 4:24, 32; 6:1-6).
- A Praying Church (Acts 2:42; 4:24; 6:6; 12:5).
- A Giving Church (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1-6)

Let us continue our study looking at the Jerusalem church to see what additional ways they are a model for us today.

### **A Disciplined Church (Acts 5:1-11)**

Seventh, the Jerusalem church was disciplined. Erring members like Ananias and Sapphira were judged. The problem today is that many church members are allowed to live in sin and be in fellowship with others with no judgment being passed upon them at all.



When you examine the Jerusalem church, you find that their discipline was:

- *God-ordered* - the sin was exposed by the apostle Peter (5:1-4).
- *Exercised immediately* - the sin was punished right when it was found out (5:6-10).
- *Respected by all* - the sin punished was viewed by outsiders with great fear (5:11).

The solution for undisciplined churches today is for elders to discipline when necessary (1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Romans 16:17-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15).

### **A Persecuted Church (Acts 4:1ff; 5:17ff; 6:8ff; 8:1ff; 12:1ff)**

Eighth, the Jerusalem church was persecuted by their fellow-Jews who did not like Christianity. But they were committed to Christ and did not hesitate to even die for him. The problem today among many Christians is that they want to avoid persecution by living like the world around them.

When you take a look at the Jerusalem, you find that their persecution:

- *Resulted from standing for truth* - they were preaching Jesus when they were persecuted
- *Was met with perseverance and prayer* - they asked God in prayer for help (4:23-31; 12:1ff)
- *Was faced positively* - they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus and they continued to grow in number (4:4,19; 5:29,41; 6:1,7; 7:60; 8:4; 12:24)

The solution for unfaithful and compromising Christians today is to endure persecution so as to gain the great reward of heaven (Matthew 5:11-