

Continuing **STEDFASTLY** ACTS 2:42 **ACTS 31** 08.01.2021 · Vol. 32 · Is.31



ACTS 11:1-30

The Church that our Saviour founded and promised to build is only local. It was never universal and invisible or both local and universal/invisible. In fact, the term Church is always local. Why? — because church is defined as “called out ones” as seen in our Saviour’s words in Luke 6:13 thus: “...he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve ...he named apostles...”

Moreover, Church is local because it is an assembly, i.e. congregating or coming together bodily. Heb. 10:25 states in part, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is...”

In founding His Church in Jerusalem, we further note that it was done in a specific place or was fixed in a limited portion, spot, place, or definite district. It was the same one kind of Church that the Saviour mandated to establish the same body in different localities.

Our memory verse further shows the Church’s locality.

“And as they went through the cities...” Here is a statement that the Baptist Church in Antioch, which came from the Baptist Church in Jerusalem, organized several like-churches

in many in many different places or cities.

“... they delivered them the decrees for to keep...” Here is a statement that the faith and practices in all of these established assemblies bear the same marks. Their localities may have been different in many ways, but they had to keep the decrees. Any deviation from these is an affront to the Founder.

“...that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.” Here is a statement that the discipline, doctrines, practices and everything that pertains to the work of God in the assembly all emanated from the apostles, the eyewitnesses of our Risen and Ascended Lord. We understand further that the apostles’ doctrine were the Founder’s doctrine.

Thank God for this truth. This 2021 and beyond, may we continue steadfastly in the Church that Jesus Himself built — a local one (indigenous, autonomous, and visible). May each of us, from this time henceforth, be found loyal to CBBC-LB, the local Church that our Saviour Himself loves and gave Himself for it!


Pastor **ARNOLD N. VALLEJO**

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM	313	FTV	10
Sunday PM	182	Baptism	8
Prayer Mtg	118		

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE Day 1-6

Mon	2-AUG	ACTS 25-28	PRO 2	PSA 150
Tue	3-AUG	LUKE 5:27-39	GEN 1:1-2:25	PSA 1
Wed	4-AUG	LUKE 6:1-26	GEN 3-5	PSA 2
Thu	5-AUG	LUKE 6:27-49	GEN 6:1-7:24	PSA 3
Fri	6-AUG	LUKE 7:1-17	GEN 8-10	PSA 4
Sat	7-AUG	LUKE 7:18-50	GEN 11	PSA 5
Sun	8-AUG	LUKE 8:1-25	GEN 12	PSA 6

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I. LET EACH OF US CONTINUE STEADFASTLY IN OUR FAITH THAT THE LOCAL CHURCH THAT JESUS FOUNDED IS AN _____ ONE.

- A. Our text in verses 1 and 26 mention two different local assemblies: one in Judea, the other in Antioch. Both assemblies are composed of believers living in different locations. This is called indigenous. Indigenous literally means _____ or such persons that naturally live in a specific locality. The Church is said further to be indigenous as they congregate in a specific locality. Hence, we read in the New Testament such reference as “to all that be in Rome, called to be saints,” “the church of God which is in Corinth,” “unto the churches of Galatia,” “saints which are at Ephesus,” etc.
- B. Indigenous is a characteristic of every _____ assembly or Church. During the early stages of the Church in Jerusalem, when Jesus Himself was physically present and was then the pastor, His earlier directives to go to the lost of Israel quite clearly indicate this unique characteristic of the Church.
- C. After Jesus ascended up to heaven and when the leadership was then bestowed upon Peter, this indigenous character became more _____. Acts 2:44-45 record this truth: “And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.” This commonness could easily be achieved if people were living in the same specific location.
- D. Indigenous character supports the Founder’s _____ for His Church. John 17:20-21 record this: Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through thy word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” Unity of the Church is indeed feasible in a local assembly since everybody has common interests and sentiments.
- E. Indigenous character of the Church further confirms the definition of the Church as the _____ of

Christ — one body and one head. I Cor. 12:12-14 record, “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.”

- F. Indigenous character helps the Church address more effectively the specific _____ of members. Paul perfectly expresses this in Eph. 4:16: “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

II. LET EACH OF US CONTINUE STEADFASTLY IN OUR FAITH THAT THE LOCAL CHURCH THAT JESUS FOUNDED IS _____.

- A. Our text records a perfect _____ of a local assembly — autonomous. The Jerusalem Church which could not accept Paul for fear did not stop the Antioch Church from accepting Paul.
- B. A local autonomous Church is _____. Its government is theocracy. Theocracy presupposes Government by God. The WORD OF GOD governed the Church! Jesus, the God incarnate, spoke and the Church followed. This is different from Catholic definition of theocracy. Catholics believe that the Pope is the vicar of Christ. Bible theocracy is God directly governing the Church thru His word and thru His chosen leader, the Pastor. The human pastor leads the Church in following and teaching the Words of Christ. The human pastor does not make laws for the Church. He leads in executing these laws. The Word of God is the law! The pastor is always a man. The Word prohibits women to pastor a Church. Moreover, the discipline of the Church is outlined in Matt. 18:15-17. No other institutions were granted to try erring members of the Church. It was solely given to the Church.
- C. A local autonomous Church is _____. The very first Baptist pastored by the Saviour had offerings. Judas, the person who had the bag, testifies they were

already giving to support the work. This Church did not depend on support from government nor from other organizations. The members gave. Jesus taught proper giving to his disciples. In one occasion, he and his disciples went to the treasury and their showed them who pleased God in their giving. Rich people came and gave in their abundance. Then a widow woman also came and gave two mites. Jesus said that even if one totals the giving of all the rich people who came, this woman's giving outweighed them all. Why? She gave all what she had. Jesus measures our giving by percentages!

- D. A local autonomous Church is _____ . Our Saviour had been preparing the Church for such. Even prior to His crucifixion, Jesus told them, "Greater things you will do!" Before ascending to heaven, Jesus told them to go and preach the gospel, to baptize, and to perpetually teach all His commands to the uttermost part of the world!

III. LET EACH OF US CONTINUE STEDFASTLY IN OUR FAITH THAT THE LOCAL CHURCH THAT JESUS FOUNDED IS _____ .

- A. Our text describes two different assemblies that are visible. Their visibility is quite obvious in their different membership composition, particularly in their discipline with their members. A case in point was Saul's membership. He was rejected in Jerusalem Church but accepted in the Antiochian Church. When there was a controversy in _____ regarding the Churches in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia, the Church of Jerusalem, the mother Church, said "Let us not trouble them." The Churches mentioned in Revelation indicated visibility and existence. They operated separately from each other.
- B. Visibility of the local Church is also pretty obvious in its unique and individual problems, difficulties and challenges. The different churches in _____ had different unique struggles. In all these, the Spirit addressed the messengers (pastors) of each of these local assemblies to immediately confront these problems.
- C. Visibility of the local Church is paramount in their _____, too. Apostle Paul noted that each Church he began in different areas of the earth did have their offerings and disbursed

the same independent of each other.

- D. Visibility of the local Church is obvious in her specific address.
- E. From the above, there is _____ truth to the teaching as regards universal and invisible Church. Church always implies local only not universal and invisible. It is a word referring to an assembly or a meeting in one place. Paul did not write to the universal church. He wrote to specific churches in specific locations.
- F. Some preachers believe that there are two kinds of church – universal and local. According to this belief, the so-called universal, invisible church is the mystical body of Christ, the true church. On the other hand, the local, visible churches are not true real churches. This belief emanates from a _____ understanding of the teachings of the Scriptures as regards the FAMILY OF GOD and CHURCH OF GOD. The clear teaching of the Bible is that, "All who are saved from the first to the last belongs to the Family of God (John 1:12; Gal. 3:26). Salvation in the OT and NT is by grace through faith for there is only one way of salvation. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 1:12; Gal. 3:26). A person may be in God's family but may not be in His Church. All saved belong to the Family or Kingdom of God. Those baptized belong to the Church of God. These scripturally baptized believers meet at a local, visible and certain place.
- F. Moreover, we must understand that the _____ could only be made possible through a local and visible church. How can the Word of God feed a Universal Invisible Church? I Tim. 3:15 states that the house of God, the Church of the Living God, is the pillar and ground of the truth. Jesus entrusted this duty to only one kind of a Church. In addition, the Church is local because Christ instituted discipline among members. How can an invisible universal church discipline its invisible universal members? The word of Christ is clear that the Church has the sole authority to discipline its members. Discipline is applicable to local and visible organizations.
- G. To top it all, the term "universal church" is a post-apostolic term that was used by Hegessipus approximately 300 A.D. It is definitely _____ apostolic or scriptural in origin.

I LOVE THE CHURCH

I love the church, the flock bought
with Christ's blood— Sheep gone
astray He found and brought to God.
Guarded and fed by shepherds He
provides, We follow Christ, secure and
satisfied.

**May Christ be praised:
"Preeminent! Adored!" I love the
church because I love her Lord!**

I love the church, the bride whom
Christ pursued— Poor and unchaste,
yet chosen, loved, and wooed. Our
Groom and Head in love laid down
His life To sanctify the church, His
cherished wife.

I love the church, my fam'ly o'er the
earth— Sinners estranged, made one
through second birth. In selfless love
Christ claimed us as His own, And
that same love from each to each is
shown.

I love the church, one body Spirit-
led— Each part distinct, yet one
through Christ our Head. Each mem-
ber serves, and thus our body grows,
Strengthened by gifts the Spirit wise
bestows.

I love the church, the temple God in-
dwells. Built by our Lord, we triumph
over hell. Founded on Truth, Apostles'
doctrine sure, We build on Christ, our
Cornerstone secure.

I love the church, the pillar of God's
Word. We will exalt the Truth till all
have heard! We will oppose the lies of
erring men That God in grace may
turn them from their sin!

2021 CHURCH CALENDAR

August 2021

29	Filipiniana Sunday
22/29	Investors' Sunday

September 2021

5	Treasure Offering Sunday
12	Grandparents' Sunday

October 2021

3	Teachers' Sunday
10	Pastor's Appreciation Sunday
20	Prayer Rally (6:00 PM)
21-22	Home Missions Night

November 2021

1-2	Men's Fellowship
29-30	NBLC 9

December 2021

5	Pastor's Wife Birthday
16	Christmas Cantata 2021
19	Christmas Gift to Jesus 2021
24	Church Christmas Fellowship
26	Year-End Song Festival
30	SS Teachers' Training 2021
31	Pastor's Wedding Anniversary

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY Sunday School · 8:30 AM Morning Service · 10 AM Discipleship · 2:30 PM Group Fellowship · 3 PM Afternoon Service · 5 PM	Doctrine Class · 5:45 PM Prayer Meeting · 6:45 PM THURSDAY Soulwinning · 6:30 PM
MONDAY BYSC Soulwinning · 5:30 PM	FRIDAY Orchestra Lesson · 5:00 PM Orchestra Practice · 7:30 PM
TUESDAY BYSC Bible Study · 5:30 PM	SATURDAY Whole Day Area Visitation & Soulwinning · 8:30 AM Choir · 3:00 PM ·
WEDNESDAY BYSC Dawn Prayer · 5:30 AM	