

# ACTS 31

12.25.2022 · Vol. 33 · Is.52



Today we conclude our series regarding our Church Covenant. We shall focus on the last paragraph which reads, "We, moreover, engage that when we move from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other New Testament Baptist Church of like faith and practice where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word."

The local New Testament Church is the only institution God established on earth that is eternal. Her state in eternal heaven is clearly established in the Holy Writ. Let us consider the following: Matt. 9:14-15; II Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7; Eph. 5:25.

The local New Testament Church is His wisdom. She is His creation. She purchased her with His own blood. She is God's alone. Let us consider the following accounts (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25).

This local New Testament Church is the Baptist Church. We must remember that the Church is composed of saved and baptized individuals. Saved alone by grace through faith in Christ. No more no less. Baptized scripturally, meaning (1) that candidate is a child of God, (2) that it is by immersion, (3) that it is only for obedience, (4) that the officiating minister is a Baptist preacher, and (5) that the administration is authorized by the Church.

This local New Testament Baptist Church is independent, separated, KJB only, soul winning, and gospel preaching Church! She is a very important institution (I Tim. 3:15).

This local New Testament Baptist Church is the only right place of every single believer. Outside of the Church, the believer becomes an easy prey of self, satan, and the world. Outside the Church Christian life is next to impossible. To emphasize the importance of the Church to every believer, God likens her to a candlestick where every candle must be installed. Rev. 1:20 clearly says, "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches." A believer is a light hence his or her right place is but the Church. Matt. 5:14-16 reads, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Having the above truth as regards the importance of the local New Testament Baptist Church, membership in a Scriptural Church should be the prime concern of a genuine Christian.

# ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK

Church membership shows one's genuine love for the Lord and His work. Church membership is a testament of our willingness to follow God and His will. Church membership is the only way that a believer may be given the privilege of Scripturally serving the Lord. Christian service outside of the Church will not last to eternity. Why? - the foundation according to I Cor. 3:12 is but "wood, hay, stubble" that shall be burned. Church-centered service yields eternal rewards.

Before we sing our last song for our 2022 Sunday School Lesson as regards our Church Covenant, let us read in whole our Covenant.

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

"We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this New Testament Baptist Church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel to all nations; as well as to follow and support the leadership of God through His chosen man."

"We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to abstain from membership in lodges and secret organizations and to avoid taking secret oaths which are contrary to Scripture; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the work of the Saviour."

"We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the laws of our Saviour, to secure it without delay."

"We, moreover, engage that when we move from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other New Testament Baptist Church of like faith and practice where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word."

May each of us indeed be found always abounding in being a constant member of the Church Christ built.

Pastor ARNOLD N. VAELEJO

**TITLE: ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN BEING A MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH WHICH CARRIES THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THIS COVENANT IN THE WORK OF THE LORD**  
**TEXT: EPHESIANS 5:22-33**  
**MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 20:28**

- I. **LET EACH OF US BE FOUND ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN BEING A MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH BY APPRECIATING THAT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS A \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - A. Church membership should never be taken \_\_\_\_\_ (V. 25) Our memory verse also clearly sounds off this truth.
  - B. Here is a great statement underscoring the Divine value of the Church — He \_\_\_\_\_ her with His own blood. Such truth speaks clearly of the priceless nature of the Church.
  - C. Here further is the truth that underscores the value of the Church — the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. His blood is not merely the blood of a pure and innocent man, but of one that is truly and properly God. Divine blood was necessary for our great eternal redemption.
  - D. Here further is the truth of the great value of the Church — the \_\_\_\_\_ is God \_\_\_\_\_, not by a representative. Our Christ is God over all, blessed forever. A mere creature can never make such a purchase. A mere creature could not have purchased a single sheep or lamb in this flock, no man can redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for Him, much less the whole flock.
  - E. Here is a statement of the \_\_\_\_\_ of this redemption. The blood which was shed is precious as it is from the union of His Divine person and humanity. Such redemption is the sole property of the Son of God.
  - G. Here is an exhortation that each of us must \_\_\_\_\_. To take heed means to mind, to regard with care, to take notice of, to attend to, or to observe. This exhortation is given us not merely as men, to take care of our bodily health, the outward concerns of life, and provide for ourselves and our families. Nor this exhortation is given to us merely as Christians.
  - H. Here is a statement that the redemption is made to all the flock — the \_\_\_\_\_ and all the members of it. The Church, compared to a flock of sheep, which are to be looked after and watched over by the ministers of the word, who are as shepherds to them, lest they should be infected, or any damage done to them. The people of God are compared to sheep on many accounts. Before conversion, for their going astray, when they are as lost sheep. After conversion, for their meek and inoffensive carriage and behaviour;

- and, for their patience in bearing sufferings, to which they are exposed.
- I. Here is an added fact of the importance of the Church — the Holy Ghost Himself bestowed \_\_\_\_\_.
  - J. Here is a strong statement as to the main work in the Church — \_\_\_\_\_ with knowledge and understanding.
- II. **LET EACH OF US BE FOUND ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN BEING A MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH BY APPRECIATING THE FACT THAT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP EXPRESSES GENUINE \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ TO CHRIST.**
    - A. As we have pointed out above, God has \_\_\_\_\_ the Church so much. There indeed is no other institution on earth that He put so much value in but the Church. Not being a member of the Baptist Church is therefore a great loss to any believer. On the contrary, a believer must indeed be able to show love and loyalty to her and her mandate.
    - B. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are two great traits that each of us as believers must possess.
      1. Love is a chief attribute of God (I John 4:16; Eph. 3:18-19). The Triune God's love to each other is unutterably full, perfect, and blissful (John 3:16).
      2. Loyalty per se as a word may not appear in the Scriptures but its sense is clearly expressed in all pages of the Holy Writ. Loyalty is defined as fidelity to a prince or sovereign, or to a husband or lover.
      3. Love and loyalty are clearly expressed in our commitment to the one loved and to whom we pledge our loyalty. Church membership is commitment. Hence, our membership expresses such traits. Non-membership of this loved Church is a declaration of our non-committal to her pursuits.
    - C. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in man make our whole heart and soul supremely delighted in and obedient to God. Holy love and loyalty further makes us cordially and practically love all beings according to their character — the good with fellowship of soul, and the evil with a Christ-like benevolence. Such a love and loyalty meet and fulfill all the ends of the law according to Matt. 22:37-40 and Rom. 13:8-10. Holy love and loyalty springs solely from our regeneration.
    - D. The Bible teaches that the center of love and loyalty is usually the \_\_\_\_\_, not the emotions. Such love is a deliberate attitude, not an uncontrollable feeling (Matt. 5:44-46). This is the reason why each of us is commanded to love, to act in a certain way, regardless of how we feel (Deut. 11:13; 22:37-39; John 13:34;

to His Divine will (I Tim. 3:15; Eph. 3:21).

- IV. LET EACH OF US BE FOUND ALWAYS  
ABOUNDING IN BEING A MEMBER OF THE  
BAPTIST CHURCH BY BEING A MEMBER  
WHEREVER \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Knowing the great importance of the Baptist Church, each of us must make Church membership our \_\_\_\_\_ priority.
- B. In transferring, we must always look for the following marks:
  1. The Church must be a strong \_\_\_\_\_ of the KJB as God's Bible alone, Christ's holy written word, pure, perfect, inerrant, and infallible.
  2. The Church must \_\_\_\_\_ only that salvation is by grace alone through faith in Christ. Christ alone is the Saviour.
  3. The Church must be a \_\_\_\_\_ and is an organized, local, visible, independent, and indigenous body of believers. It must be self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating.
  4. The Church's main thing must be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Its mandate is to carry out the letter and the spirit of the Great Commission.
  5. The Church's standards are obviously \_\_\_\_\_. The dress code, hairstyles, and grooming must be conservative and Biblical.
  6. The Church must adhere to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of believers but must be led by a God-called man never a woman or a committee.
  7. The Church must be \_\_\_\_\_ adherent to Biblical Lord's Supper, only for members and uses only the two elements of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine which are but symbolic to the redemptive work of Christ.
  8. The Church must bear the \_\_\_\_\_ Baptists persuasion on the pretributational, premillennial coming of Jesus Christ.

C. In transferring, it should be based on preferences and personalities, or merely offended with someone who is imperfect in the Church. Also, we do not transfer our membership because of popular people in the Church. Above all, the Pastor's recommendation must always be sought.

- A. Our text in verses 26-27 mentions Christ's goal for the Church - "... he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be and
- B. Membership in Church is the only way to fulfill In II Pet. 3:18.
- C. Membership in Church fulfills that each must learn to submit our will

# BIBLE READING SCHEDULE DAY 122-128

## 1 Chronicles 4-5 :

- Mon 26-DEC
- (1) Why is Judah (and not Reuben), the first tribe discussed in these genealogies?
  - (2) What did both Jabez and the tribes east of Jordan do that led to God's working?
  - (3) Why did God cause Assyria to take His people captive and take away their land?

## 1 Chronicles 6-7 :

- Tue 27-DEC
- (1) What service responsibility did God give to the Levites and descendants of Aaron?
  - (2) Why do these genealogy chapters emphasize the land assigned to various tribes? (Remember this book was written to the Jews in exile and returning from exile)
  - (3) If you were a returning exile, how would these lists of descendants help you confirm your identity? What is the identity of Jews?

## 1 Chronicles 8-10 :

- Wed 28-DEC
- (1) One of the truths of genealogies is that what may be the most important thing about you is what one of your descendants will do. How should we react to this?
  - (2) Why were the returning exiles supposed to rebuild their lives on the structure established by David and Samuel?
  - (3) How does remembering God's judgment on Saul help God's people to start anew?

## 1 Chronicles 11-13 :

- Thu 29-DEC
- (1) Why did all Israel make David king and he became more and more powerful?
  - (2) Write at least 3 adjectives to describe the men that God brought to help David.
  - (3) From chapter 13, what are at least 2 truths we learn about the ark of the covenant?

## 1 Chronicles 14-17 :

- Fri 30-DEC
- (1) What did the LORD do for David in chapter 14? Or what is the key difference in how they brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem in chapter 15?
  - (2) In David's song of thanks, what is the main content of what we should say to God?
  - (3) What is the key description of the kingdom God will build from David's house?

## 1 Chronicles 18-21:

- Sat 31-DEC
- (1) Chapters 18-19: What makes a person victorious over enemies and successful?
  - (2) Chapters 18-20: What are God's people responsible to do for God to give victory?
  - (3) What was the spiritual reality behind people's decisions, sins, repentance, and worship as well as behind plagues and their stopping?

Sun 1-JAN **PSALM 67-68**

## I WILL BE WITH THE CHURCH

Purchased by His own perfect sacrifice,  
Sinless body and precious blood –  
Each one must really need to know,  
And give his best and all to this dear Church.

**Yes, Oh Yes! I will be with the Church!**  
**Divine appointment, holy, high call;**  
**Yes, oh yes, I must be with the Church!**  
**And walk His way, 'til I be like Him.**

Commissioned by a loving God to go!  
The Church must really need to know  
Here and there, equip each one, too  
Who will give their all, so others may do!

Great creation of the Ancient of Days!  
The Church must act with Pow'r on High;  
To draw each man to Him alone  
So each man measures up to His stature.

You and I, be involved no time to waste!  
Reach the world  
Go, serve, baptize and teach;  
As Christ's disciples, we must hold;  
Christ coming soon, share this Blessed hope!

Not by might, nor by power,  
but by His Spirit!  
This is my vow, I will always be!  
O yes, with the Church, I will be!  
I will always be!

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### December 2022

25	Christmas Gift to Jesus /Fellowship
28-30	BYF Year End Overnight Fellowship
30	Sunday School Teacher's Training/ Prayer Meeting/Year End Song Festival

### January 2023

1	New Year Service and Fellowship
20	Couples & Single Parents Conference
22	CBBM Binangonan Anniversary

## LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM	168	FTV	-
Sunday PM	502	Baptism	47
Prayer Mtg	170		