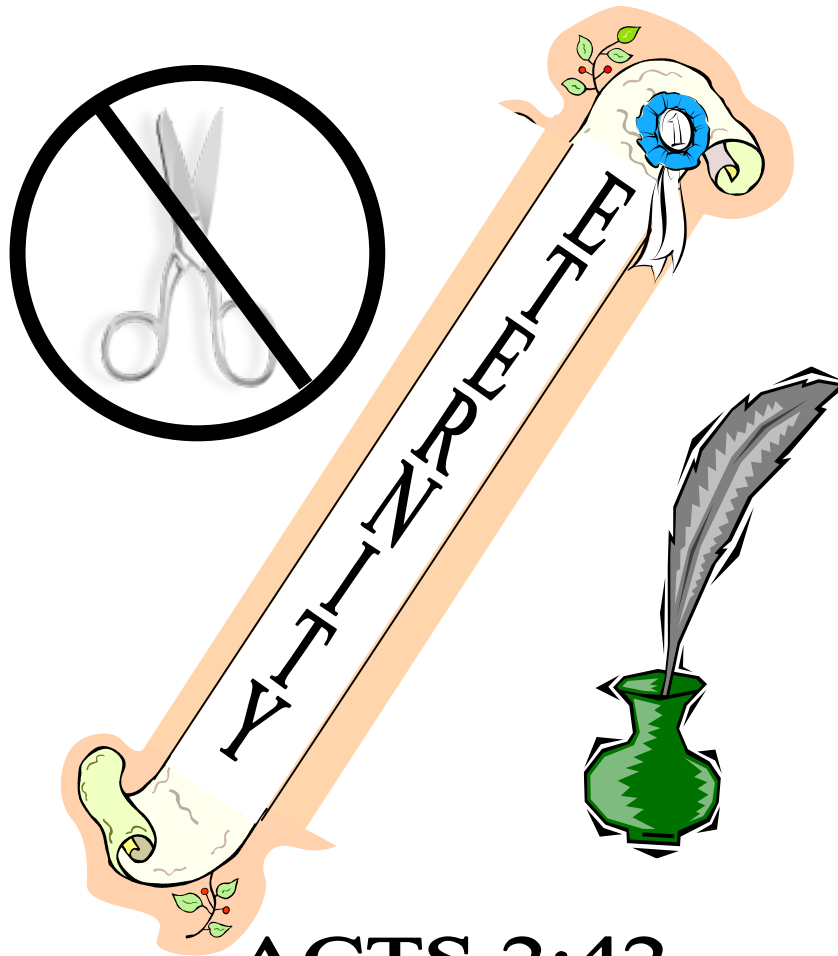


"A LONG TERM NO-CUT CONTRACT"



ACTS 2:42

Rev. Dr. Perry Simmons, Jr., B.A., M.A., D. Min.
224 West Kinney Street,
Newark, New Jersey

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INTRODUCTION

ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE NBA BASKETBALL PLAYERS WAS, IS, AND WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AS EARVIN ‘MAGIC’ JOHNSON.

HE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO WATCH FROM HIS CHILDHOOD.

“MAGIC” GREW UP IN LANSING, MICHIGAN AND WAS KNOWN FOR GOING TO BED EARLY.

THE REASON HE WENT TO BED EARLY WAS BECAUSE HE ROSE EACH MORNING AT 7:30 a.m. TO GO TO THE COURT AND PLAY BASKETBALL.

“MAGIC” WAS SO SPECIAL THAT EVEN BEFORE A STANDOUT BASKETBALL PLAYER AT LANSING EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL, HE WOULD GO SHOPPING WHILE DRIBBLING A BASKETBALL WITH ONE HAND.

HE BECAME A STANDOUT FOR THE MICHIGAN WOLVERINES, AND THEN HE BECAME A PART OF THE “SHOWTIME” ERA FOR THE LOS ANGELES LAKERS, LEADING THE TEAM TO FIVE NBA CHAMPIONSHIPS.

WHAT WAS VERY REMARKABLE WAS NOT WHAT MAGIC DID ON THE COURT, BUT WHAT HE DID OFF THE COURT.

MAGIC DIDN’T PLAY FOR TEN OR FIFTEEN BALL CLUBS; MAGIC MET WITH THE OWNER OF THE LAKERS, DR. JERRY BUSS, AND SIGNED A 25 YEAR, LONG TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.

A LONG TERM NO-CUT CONTRACT MEANS THAT NO MATTER HOW WELL OR HOW POORLY AN ATHLETE PERFORMS ON THE COURT;

**NO MATTER IF HE SCORED 40 POINTS OR NO POINTS;
NO MATTER IF HE'S 18 OR 38, BECAUSE HIS NAME IS ON THE
CONTRACT, HE CANNOT AND WILL NOT EVER BE REMOVED
FROM THE TEAM.**

**ISN'T THAT AMAZING? WHEN "MAGIC" HAD THE FLU, HE
DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIS PLACE ON THE TEAM;**

**WHEN "MAGIC" WAS INJURED ON THE FLOOR, HE DIDN'T
HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIS PLACE ON THE TEAM;**

**WHEN "MAGIC" CROSSED THE THRESHOLD OF HIS
TWENTIES INTO HIS THIRTIES, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT HIS PLACE ON THE TEAM;**

**EVEN WHEN "MAGIC" CONTRACTED THE HIV VIRUS, AND IT
WAS MANDATORY FOR HIM TO DISCONTINUE PLAYING, HE
DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIS PLACE ON THE TEAM.
BECAUSE "MAGIC" HAD A LONG TERM NO-CUT CONTRACT.**

**THERE IS SECURITY WHEN YOU HAVE A LONG TERM NO-
CUT CONTRACT;**

**THERE IS PEACE OF MIND WHEN YOU HAVE A LONG TERM
NO-CUT CONTRACT;**

**THERE ARE NO WORRIES WHEN YOU HAVE A LONG TERM
NO-CUT CONTRACT;**

**AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU CAN BE AT EASE AND ENJOY
YOURSELF WHEN YOU HAVE A LONG TERM NO-CUT
CONTRACT.**

**"MAGIC" JOHNSON IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A
LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.**

**MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I HAVE COME TO ANNOUNCE
THIS MORNING THAT IF YOU HAVE ACCEPTED THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR, YOU TOO HAVE
A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.**

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1. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE SAVED;
2. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR PLACE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST;
3. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING OLDER;
4. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR STEPS GETTING SLOWER;
5. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING BOOTED OUT OF WORSHIP;
6. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO LIFT UP YOUR HANDS AND SAYING AMEN.

WE HAVE, INDIVIDUALLY AND CORPORATELY A LONG-TERM, CO-CUT CONTRACT. JESUS WILL NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US.

THOSE OF US WHO ARE IN THE LORD'S HAND, NO MAN CAN PLUCK US OUT OF HIS HANDS.

WE OUGHT TO TELL THE LORD, "THANK YOU" BECAUSE WE HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT, BECAUSE THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN DONE SIGNED OUR NAME.

TRANSFORMATION TO THE TEXT

THE WORDS OF OUR TEXT ARE REFLECTIVE OF HOW GOOD IT CAN BE FOR A CHURCH MEMBER TO OPERATE WHEN HE OR SHE KNOWS THAT THEY HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.

THIS TEXT IS THE 'GENESIS' FOR THE MODERN ORGANIZED CHURCH.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST MEGA-CHURCH RECORDED IN THE SCRIPTURES.

SENIOR PASTOR PETER AND THE OTHER APOSTLES HAVE NOT ONLY A MEGA-CHURCH, BUT THEY OPERATE AS A COMMUNITY.

THREE THOUSAND SOULS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE NUMBER OF BELIEVERS IN ONE DAY.

THIS IS THE FIRST LOOK AT THE EARLY CHURCH, AND IT SHOWS US THE TRAITS THAT CHARACTERIZED THE DAILY LIVES OF BELIEVERS.

HOW THEY OPERATED AFTER RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD SHOULD PRICK THE CONSCIENCE OF THE MODERN DAY CHURCH.

I. THIS TEXT OPENS UP BY SAYING THAT THESE BELIEVERS WHO HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT OF SALVATION, “GLADLY RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD.”

A. THIS IS THE BASIC TRAIT OF A TRUE CHURCH.

- 1. THIS IS WHAT REALLY DEFINES A CHURCH;**
- 2. A CHURCH IS A PEOPLE OR BODY OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD.**
- 3. THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING A SET OF IDEAS;**
- 4. THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING A MAN’S THOUGHTS;**
- 5. THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING A SET OF RULES AND PRINCIPLES;**
- 6. THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING A HUMAN PHILOSOPHY;**
- 7. THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING A POSITION;**

8. **THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING A RELIGION;**
9. **THEY WERE RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD;**
10. **THEY WERE RECEIVING THE VERY REVELATION OF GOD HIMSELF.**
11. **GOD HAD REVEALED HIMSELF IN JESUS CHRIST TO HIS DISCIPLES.**
12. **AND PETER, THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISCIPLES, WAS PROCLAIMING THE WORD ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.**
13. **GOD HAD SPOKEN TO THE WORLD THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST, AND THE EARLY CHURCH HAD RECEIVED HIS WORD GLADLY.**

B. NOTE THE WORD “RECEIVED.”

1. **A TRUE CHURCH DOES NOT JUST HEAR AND LISTEN TO THE WORD;**
2. **A TRUE BODY OF CHRIST IS NOT JUST PRESENT TO JOIN THE CROWD AND SEE WHAT IS GOING ON;**
3. **THEY DON'T JUST SIT WITH WANDERING MINDS AND CLOSED HEARTS;**
4. **A TRUE CHURCH RECIEVES THE WORD OF GOD DLADLY.**
 - a. **THEY WELCOME IT;**
 - b. **THEY BELIEVE IT;**
 - c. **THEY TAKE IT IN;**
 - d. **THEY PRACTICE IT;**
 - e. **THEY EXPERIENCE IT;**

- f. THEY HOLD ON TO IT;
- g. THEY HUNGER FOR IT;
- h. THEY REJOICE IN IT;
- i. AND THEY SHARE IT.

C. NOTE THE STATEMENT, "THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD."

- 1. NOT EVERYONE PRESENT RECEIVED IT;
- 2. SOME WERE THERE FOR THE WRONG REASONS, AND OTHERS WERE CLOSED MINDED AND DISINTERESTED;
- 3. STILL OTHERS SIMPLY REFUSED TO BELIEVE AND REJECTED THE WORD.
- 4. BUT THOSE WHO RECEIVED GOD'S WORD BECAME THE VERY FIRST BODY OF BELIEVERS;
- 5. THEY BECAME THE FIRST CHURCH;
- 6. THEY WERE THE FIRST TO RECEIVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.

D. THIS IS GOING TO MESS US UP BECAUSE THEY MADE THE WORD FIRST, AND OUR PRIORITY TODAY MAKES THE WORD THE LAST THING.

- 1. BUT IF WE ARE GOING TO OPERATE PROPERLY AS BELIEVERS, THE FIRST THING WE MUST DO IS GET INTO THE WORD.

E. THEY SPENT THEIR TIME LEARNING THE APOSTLE'S TEACHING.

- 1. THE APOSTLE'S TEACHING WAS NOT NEW BUT IT WAS AN ECHO OF WHAT JESUS

TAUGHT THEM.

2. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A GOSPEL OR TEACHING THAT IS CONTRARY TO THE TEACHING OF JESUS.

a. PETER, PAUL, JAMES AND JOHN NEVER CONTRADICTED JESUS.

F. THE GOSPEL WAS HANDED DOWN FROM THE AUTHOR TO FAITHFUL MEN WHO WERE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS.

1. THEIR COMMITMENT TO SPEND THEIR TIME LEARNING THE APOSTLES' TEACHING WAS IMPORTANT.

G. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT SOME OF US ARE SPIRITUALLY ALLEGRIC TO COMMITTING TO BIBLE STUDY.

1. WE WOULD RATHER SHOUT ON CREDIT, THAN COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL;

2. WE WOULD RATHER OPERATE OFF OF EMOTION, THAN TO COME TO A TRAINING SESSION;

3. WE WOULD RATHER FIGHT IN THE PARKING LOT, THAN COME TO LEADERSHIP TRAINING.

4. WE WOULD RATHER GO TO A BUSINESS MEETING, THAN COME TO BIBLE STUDY;

ILLUSTRATION

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A MEMBER THAT CAME TO CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING AT EVERY OPPURTUNITY, BUT NEVER CAME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR BIBLE STUDY.

ONE NIGHT THE MEETING GOT HOT AND THAT MEMBER SAID SOMETHING IN THE MEETING, AND THE PASTOR SAID TO HER, “EXCUSE ME SISTER, BUT THAT’S NOT BIBLICAL.”

AND THE WOMAN SAID TO HIM, “WE HAVE BY-LAWS, WE DON’T NEED NO BIBLE.’

THE PASTOR LOOKED AT HER AND THE CONGREGATION AND SAID, “IF YOU DON’T HAVE OR NEED A BIBLE, THEN YOU DON’T HAVE A PASTOR.” HE WALKED OUT AND NEVER CAME BACK.

H. MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTERS, YOU HAVE TO HAVE THAT “DEER PANTETH BY THE WATER” ATTITUDE WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING THE WORD OF GOD.

1. YOU’VE GOT TO HAVE THE ‘*CRACK ADDICT*’ ATTITUDE WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING THE WORD OF GOD.

a. NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO A *CRACK HEAD* THAN *CRACK.*

b. NOTHING WILL KEEP YOU FROM LEARNING ALL THAT YOU CAN ABOUT JESUS;

c. NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN THE WORD OF GOD.

I. BUT THIS IS A COMPOUND PRINCIPLE; NOT ONLY DO WE NEED TO BE IN THE WORD, WE HAVE TO BE COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF FELLOWSHIP.

1. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ONLY DESIGNATE ROOMS IN OUR BUILDING AND CALLED THEM “FELLOWSHIP HALLS.”

2. BUT IF YOU READ THIS TEXT, THE DESIRE TO LEARN THE WORD OF GOD AND FELLOWSHIP

3. ARE NOT OPPOSITES, BUT THEY WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH EACH OTHER.
 4. WE CAN'T HAVE LEARNING OF THE WORD OF GOD AND BE OUT OF FELLOWSHIP.
 5. THE EARLY CHURCH UNDERSTOOD THAT STRENGTH IS NOT IN NUMBERS, BUT STRENGTH IS IN THE WORD OF GOD.
 6. FELLOWSHIP IS FALSE WITHOUT THE WORD OF GOD.
 - a. FELLOWSHIP, "KOINONIA", THOSE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST WHO HAVE COME FROM THE SAME SPIRITUAL WOMB.
 - b. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE LONG-TERM NO-CUT CONTRACTS WITH THE LORD.
- J. THOSE WHO RECEIVED A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT WERE BAPTIZED.
1. THE IDEA HERE IS THAT THEY WERE BAPTIZED IMMEDIATELY.
- I. BELIEVERS WHO HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT OF SALVATION, "GLADLY RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD."
- II. SECONDLY, THOSE WHO RECEIVED LONG-TERM, NO- CUT CONTRACT CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN FOUR THINGS:
- A. THE FIRST THING THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN WAS THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE.
 1. THE WORD FOR DOCTRINE HERE IS THE GREEK WORD "DIDACHE" WHICH IS THE

TEACHING AND THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE APOSTLES.

- 2. THIS WOULD INCLUDE BOTH WHAT CHRIST TAUGHT AND HIS DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION.**
- 3. IT WOULD ALSO BE THE SAME TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONS THAT ARE SHARED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**
- 4. THERE IS ONLY ONE MESSAGE THAT COULD GROUND THEM, AND THAT IS THE MESSAGE THAT THEY TAUGHT.**

B. THE SECOND THING THEY CONTINUED STEADFAST IN WAS FELLOWSHIP.

- 1. FELLOWSHIP WROUGHT BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD MEANS MORE THAN THE ASSOCIATION EXISTING IN SECULAR GROUP.**
- 2. THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SPIRITUAL PARTICIPATION.**
- 3. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IS BASED UPON NEIGHBORLY ASSOCIATION,**
- 4. SPIRITUAL PARTICIPATION IS BASED UPON A SPIRITUAL UNION WROUGHT BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.**
- 5. THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES A SPIRITUAL UNION BY MELTING AND MOLDING THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER TO THE HEART OF OTHER BELIEVERS.**
- 6. HE ATTACHES THE LIFE OF ONE BELIEVER TO THE LIVES OF OTHER BELIEVERS.**
- 7. FELLOWSHIP FORBIDS AND UNATTACHED LIFE.**

**C. THE THIRD THING THEY CONTINUED
STEADFASTLY IN WAS BREAKING OF BREAD.**

- 1. THIS COULD BE A CONFUSING PASSAGE, BUT IT'S NOT.**
- 2. THE TERM "BREAKING OF BREAD" REFERS TO TWO THINGS IN THE BIBLE:**
 - a. FIRST, IT MEANS TO BREAK BREAD DURING THE COURSE OF A MEAL FOR PHYSICAL FOOD.**
 - b. SECONDLY, IT MEANS TO BREAK BREAD AS OBSERVING THE LORD'S SUPPER.**
- 3. IN THIS TEXT, "BREAKING OF BREAD" MEANS TO OBSERVE THE ORDINANCE OF THE CHURCH.**
- 4. THIS MEANS THAT THE EARLY CHURCH, THOSE WHO HAD LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACTS, OBSERVED AND REMEMBERED THE LORD'S DEATH.**
- 5. THE LORD'S SUPPER WAS TRADITIONALLY HELD ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, BUT THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT "AS OFTEN AS YE DO IT."**
- 6. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO FOCUS ON THE LORD'S SUPPER?**
 - a. FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE LONG TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACTS, IT IS A PHYSICAL REMINDER OF THE GREAT SACRIFICE THAT JESUS MADE FOR US.**
- 7. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT FOR ME, THERE IS A SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.**

- a. **THE BREAD REPRESENTS HIS BODY THAT WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSION, AND BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES.**
 - b. **THE WINE REPRESENTS THE BLOOD THAT WAS SHED FOR THE REMISSION OF OUR SINS, SO WE COULD HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.**
- 8. WHY DO WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE LORD'S SUPPER?**
- a. **APPARENTLY THE EARLY CHURCH UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CHURCH MUST NEVER FORGET THAT IT WAS BIRTHED IN PAIN AND SORROW.**
 - b. **THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE CHURCH'S FOUNDER SACRIFICED HIS OWN LIFE THEY COULD HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.**
- 9. I DON'T MEAN NO HARM, BUT YOU DON'T GET THE SAME AFFECT ON ANNUAL DAYS THAT YOU GET WHEN YOU OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER.**
- 10. YOU DON'T GET THE SAME AFFECT DURING BAKE SALE THAT YOU GET WHEN YOU OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER.**
- 11. YOU DON'T GET THE SAME AFFECT WHEN YOU HAVE MUSICALS AND PLAYS AS YOU GET WHEN YOU OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER.**
- 12. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT HOLDING IN YOUR HAND THE REPRESENTATION OF BLOOD THAT WAS SHED FOR YOU AND THE BODY THAT**

13. WAS BROKEN FOR YOU, SO THAT YOU COULD HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.

14. THAT IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR SALVATION.

- a. IT'S NOT ABOUT HOW MANY CHOIRS YOU SING IN;**
- b. IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT COLORS YOU'RE WEARING THIS MORNING;**
- c. IT'S NOT ABOUT WHETHER YOU SIT IN THE FRONT OR THE BACK OF THE CHURCH;**
- d. WHAT MATTERS IS THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD.**

14. NOT ONLY DOES IT MATTER BUT I GET EMOTIONAL ABOUT IT. WHY DO YOU GET EMOTIONAL BROTHER PREACHER?

- a. BECAUSE IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE BLOOD BEING SHED AND THE BODY BEING BROKEN, I WOULD NOT BE HERE;**
- b. IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE SHED BLOOD AND THE BROKEN BODY, I WOULD NOT HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.**
- c. I WOULDN'T HAVE JOY, PEACE, LOVE, CONTENTMENT AND SALVATION.**
- d. I GET EMOTIONAL ABOUT IT BECAUSE IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHERE HE BROUGHT ME FROM;**
- e. IF YOU ONLY KNEW THAT I WAS ON MY WAY TO A DEVIL'S HELL, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY I GET EMOTIONAL.**

15. YOU CAN SIT THERE IF YOU WANT TO, BUT LET ME TAKE 10 SECONDS TO TELL THE LORD, “THANK YOU.”

D. FOURTHLY, THE EARLY CHURCH, THOSE WHO HAVE LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACTS, WERE A PEOPLE WHO PERSEVERED IN PRAYER.

1. PRAYER IS TWO-FOLD HERE:

a. IT MEANS NOT JUST TO PRAY BY YOURSELF AND FOR YOURSELF, BUT IT ALSO MEANS CORPORATE PRAYER.

b. IT MEANS SHARING EACH OTHER’S BURDENS BY PRAYING.

2. THROUGH PRAYER, THEY WERE BROUGHT INTO THE MOST INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP AND PRESENCE OF GOD.

a. THEY COULD GET NO CLOSER TO GOD THAN WHEN THEY WERE DRAWING NIGH TO GOD THROUGH PRAYER.

3. THROUGH PRAYER, THEY RECEIVED THINGS FROM GOD.

a. THEY RECEIVED HIS PROVISION FOR BOTH THEIR SOULS AND LIVES.

I. BELIEVERS WHO HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT OF SALVATION, “GLADLY RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD.”

II. SECONDLY, THOSE WHO RECEIVED LONG-TERM, NO- CUT CONTRACT CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN FOUR THINGS:

III. THOSE OF US WHO UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION IN CHRIST, ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT PRAYER IS MANY THINGS.

- A. PRAYER IS DOXOLOGY BUT IT IS ALSO PRAISE;
- B. PRAYER IS THANKSGIVING;
- C. PRAYER IS CONFESSION;
- D. PRAYER IS SUPPLICATION;
- E. PRAYER IS STRENGTH;
- F. PRAYER IS REFRESHMENT;
- G. PRAYER IS JOY;
- H. PRAYER IS DIALOGUE WITH GOD;
- I. PRAYER IS POURING OUT THE SOUL BEFORE GOD;
- J. PRAYER IS CRYING TO HEAVEN;
- K. PRAYER CAN BE DONE IN MANY PASTURES;
- L. PRAYER CAN BE DONE IN PUBLIC OR IN SECRET;

CONCLUSION

- A. ABRAHAM PRAYED AND GOD PROVIDED A RAM FOR THE SACRIFICE.
- B. JACOB PRAYED AND GOD CHANGED THE HEART OF HIS BROTHER ESAU;
- C. DAVID PRAYED AND GOD DEFEATED THE COUNSEL OF AHITHOPHEL;

- D. DANIEL PRAYED AND GOD ENABLED HIM TO TELL NEBUCHADNEZZAR HIS DREAM;**
- E. PAUL AND SILAS PRAYED AND GOD DELIVERED THAM FROM THE JAIL IN PHILIPPI;**
- F. JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE OF PRAYER.**
- 1. HE WAS TOTALLY GOD, BUT HE WAS ALSO TOTALLY MAN.**
 - 2. IF YOU HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, LIKE JESUS, YOU CAN BE A PRAYING MAN OR WOMAN.**
 - 3. JESUS PRAYED IN GOOD TIMES AS WELL AS BAD TIMES.**
 - 4. HE PRAYED FOR SPECIAL STRENGTH;...**
 - 5. HE PRAYED IN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES....**
 - 6. HE PRAYED IN THE TEMPLE.**
 - 7. BUT MOST OF ALL, HE PRAYED AT HIS DEATH ON THE CORSS.**
 - a. "FATHER FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."**
 - 9. AFTER PRAYING, HE WENT ON AND DIED..BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE GOT UP WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.**
 - 10. BECAUSE HE GOT UP, I HAVE A LONG-TERM, NO-CUT CONTRACT.**

