

A PICTURE OF A GREAT CHURCH

TEXT: Acts 11:22-26.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. An aged Indian chief promised a blessing to the son who would climb the highest. One brought a flower from a high hill, one a flint rock from even higher, the third told a story of what he saw at the top of the mountain. "Son, you have nothing in your hand, but you have a picture in your heart."
- B. Our Lord had a picture of the church.
- C. Someone said "Never cross a bridge till you come to it." Yet, the world is owned by people who crossed bridges in their imagination miles before they came to them.

BODY: THREE QUESTIONS.

I. WHAT DOES THIS GREAT CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

- A. Not a grand building somewhere.
- B. The members are ever growing spiritually.
 - 1. Gal. 5:22-25.
 - 2. Rom. 8:6.
- C. Supports missionaries.
 - 1. Phil. 4:15-18.
 - 2. A steam engine that can only generate enough steam to pull itself and blow it's whistle is useless."
- D. Does good to the needy.
 - 1. Jas. 1:27.
 - 2. Gal. 6:10.
- E. Has a well attended Bible school.
 - 1. Heb. 10:24-31.
 - 2. Psa. 119:11 "Thy word have I hide in my heart that .."

3. This is the church at work, evangelism, edification, giving, fortification, immunization and association.

F. Turns out well developed leaders. (Elders, deacons, teachers).

II. HOW CAN THIS PICTURE BECOME A REALITY?

A. Sleeping saints must wake up.

1. Rom. 13:11-14.

2. Eph. 5:14-18.

B. We must become opportunity conscious- Matt. 25:14-30.

C. We must put away pessimism. (Four classes: I can't, I won't, I intent to and I will).

D. Forget past difficulties and accomplishments- Phil. 3:13-14.

E. Go to work (hats off to the past, coats off to the future).

1. Jn. 9:4.

2. Jn. 4:35.

III. DO WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

A. Money-Talents-Tools?

B. You?

1. 2 Cor. 8:5.

2. 1 Tim. 4:15.

3. Titus 2:14.

C. Pledge Your...

1. Prayers. Matt. 7:7-11.

2. Presence- Heb. 10:25.

3. Participation- Eph. 4:15-16.

4. Pockets- 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

5. Perseverance.

a. Gal. 6:9.

b. Rev. 2:10.

c. 1 Cor. 15:58.

CONCLUSION:

A. Don't say this picture is unrealistic.

B. There is another picture that floods our souls- Jn. 14:1-3.

C. Are; you an asset or a liability to the church?