

God & The Church #3 – Acts 1:1-2; 2:14
(God Series: Lesson 8 2 Chronicles 7:13-14)
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Introduction

1. Luke wrote both *Luke* and *Acts* to Theophilus. *Luke* reveals Christ; *Acts* reveals His Church! Jesus has left us the wonderful gift of His Church. Jesus came (*Luke*); Jesus remains (*Acts*).
2. To be close to God is to be more faithful in the Church...

I. Baptism

- a. *Fact*. In the New Testament, baptism was the dividing line between sin and salvation, sinners and salvation. It is our initiation and entrance into the Church.
- b. *Fact*. Baptism in the New Testament was immersion. History totally agrees with this. There was no argument over modes.
- c. *Fact*. Today scholars are returning to these truths about baptism. Many honest scholars agree that "Baptism is essential."
- d. Baptism is personal. Baptism is not simply a decision it is one of the most personal aspects of Christianity. One, by faith, puts on Christ. I see baptism like a wedding; they are personal and involve a commitment to a person. We are buried with Christ (Romans 6:1-4). We put on Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).

II. Lord's Supper

- a. Lord's Supper is our family meal (1 Corinthians 11:17-24; Matthew 26:26-29). The Lord's Supper was instituted during the Passover which was a family affair. The Lord's Supper is a meal with our family as a social act when we assemble.

III. Sacrifice

- a. Baptism is sacrifice; the Lord's Supper is sacrifice. The church is sacrifice. Love means sacrifice.

Poem: How To Build A Great Church

If this is not a place where tears are understood, . . . where do I go to cry?
If this is not a place where my spirit can take wing, . . . where do I go to fly?
If this is not a place where my questions can be asked, . . . where do I go to seek?
If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard, . . . where do I go to speak?
If this is not a place where you accept me as I am, . . . where do I go to be?
If this is not a place where I try and learn and grow, . . . where do I go to be me?