

# God's Love Goes Out – Blueprint of the Church

Scripture: Acts 2: 42-47 // Jeremiah 29: 11-13  
Date: June 14, 2020

## **CHAOS**

### **GOD'S BLUEPRINT**

The bible in Exodus 20 describes the God guidance to His people. The 10 commandments list the commandments to love God with all our heart, soul minds and strength and also to love our neighbours as ourselves. Jeremiah describes God's plans for us as good and help us to prosper. Plans to give us hope and a future.

### **BREAKING THE RULES**

There is much in our world currently that tells us that the good and right and just rules that God intended us to live by – have failed miserably. Our current Covid 19 pandemic illustrates how much of our 'normal' rules have been changed. Daily changes in how we shop, where we work, how we learn and who we can meet and connect with have altered our expectations of what we are entitled to know, be and do.

For many others in our world the rules haven't changed for years, decades and even centuries. Rules that have made them second class persons because of their skin colour, gender, age, financial status, education status etc.

## **CHAOS**

Rules that are adjusted for some and rules that unjust for others still end up failing. None of them are what God's design for us as His creation are and we find our world in chaos. Frustration that leads to fear and failure. Peril that leads to panic and pain. Exhaustion leads to exasperation and then an expiration of hope and faith and order.

In the midst of this chaos we make efforts to restore order, power and control but one our efforts. We build our own kingdoms with walls and rules. Kingdoms that we built on the order of class, of culture, of colour of skin. Kingdoms that we build for money, for power, for the sake of intellect and academia, for the sake of institutions and traditions.

But all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The plans God had for us we've doubted and denied, we've rebelled against and rejected. We've made our own blueprints to guide our lives and we've failed in our sin.

## **CLARITY**

### **ACTS - CHAOS**

At Pentecost there was also chaos as the power of the Holy Spirit came upon the believers resulting in their praising God in different languages and tongues of fire - flames – resting on their heads. It appeared to the Jewish observers that there was even more chaos happening.

## ACTS - CLARITY IN CHRIST

But Peter stood up and spoke clarity to the situation. Peter – the uneducated fisherman - knew about chaos from his failures as a disciple. But Peter – the apostle – also knew about a clarity found only in Jesus Christ.

Only in Christ would the blueprints of life make sense. Every blueprint has an architect that develops the plans and signs off on the plans – ensuring that they are accurate and that the final building will be structurally sound when completed. This Jesus – Peter contends – is the one to bring order out of the chaos.

Peter speaks into the history of the Jewish people of how the Messiah that was promised to them was Jesus Himself. Jesus who came – as one of them – speaking of a kingdom of majesty and mercy, of glory and grace, of redemption and righteousness.

A messiah who would take all the chaos and bring order through through His death on the cross. A death that each person would have a hand in as the penalty of sin was theirs (and ours) and a penalty that He took upon Himself.

A messiah who – through His resurrection – would bring life to all who would believe. An abundant and full life not based on our expectations or merit but on His presence and His power. A messiah that was not a guide or a gimmick but was the actual way into order out of chaos.

## CALLED

### CHRIST – CALLS

Jeremiah 29: 12-13 is where God challenges Israel (and us) to know His plans. To know them IF we call on God's power, IF we pray and IF we seek God's grace. If we be and do church life on our own power and strength then we re-assert ourselves into the role of architect – and this will ultimately fail. We don't know what we're doing !!

Peter's sermon on Christ ended with an encouragement to believe, repent and be baptized in faith of God's truth of Jesus Christ. And the crowd responded with over 3,000 in one day !! The text continues to say that the Lord added to their number daily. The God who was building the church is the same God who was growing the church.

### COMMUNITY – UNITED

This early church was united. They weren't uniform in appearance, but they were united in attitude. The text in Acts 2 speaks of the unity of the body of Christ. In verse 43 it speaks of *everyone* and other places it refers to *they*. All the separation found in the chaos of our world is united in the Christ who rules over the world. They are still different in their age, their culture, their class and even the colour of their skin. But they are one in Christ Jesus.

They were one in sin and now they are one in salvation.

## CHURCH - DEVOTED

The text also speaks in vs. 42 of the word devoted. It's repeated in vs. 46 – as continued to meet together. They are the same Greek word of *prosketero* which has an understanding of persistence, of faithful. The English understanding of devoted speaks of being committed, focused, determined and resilient. There was a depth in the focus of this passion and there was a focus in their depth of passion. They were united in faith and devoted to God. Learning more of Him, worshipping Him, praying to Him, fellowshiping with each other in His ways of life and sharing these truths – in word and in deed with those around them.

## CONCLUSION

Over the next weeks we will start looking at the church in more details. As we continue to walk through our Vision 2020 campaign here at Maranatha YYC – seeking clarity of God and our connection to Him – we will look at the various parts of the church described in the Acts 2: 42-47 text. A church designed by God, purposed for God and empowered by God – for His Kingdom.

Christ did not promise to remove us out of the chaos of the world but He did promise that His power was greater than the chaos of the world. In His love He forgave us from the chaos of our past and in His love He freed us to live under His control moving forward. As His people – His church – we are called to seek Him, follow Him and serve Him wherever He calls. Now and forever more!

AMEN