

HOW REVIVAL ACTS

Acts 6:1-7



FIRED UP

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave **the word of God**, and serve tables.

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of **the word**.

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid *their* hands on them.

7 And **the word of God** increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.



I. THE ORGANIZATION

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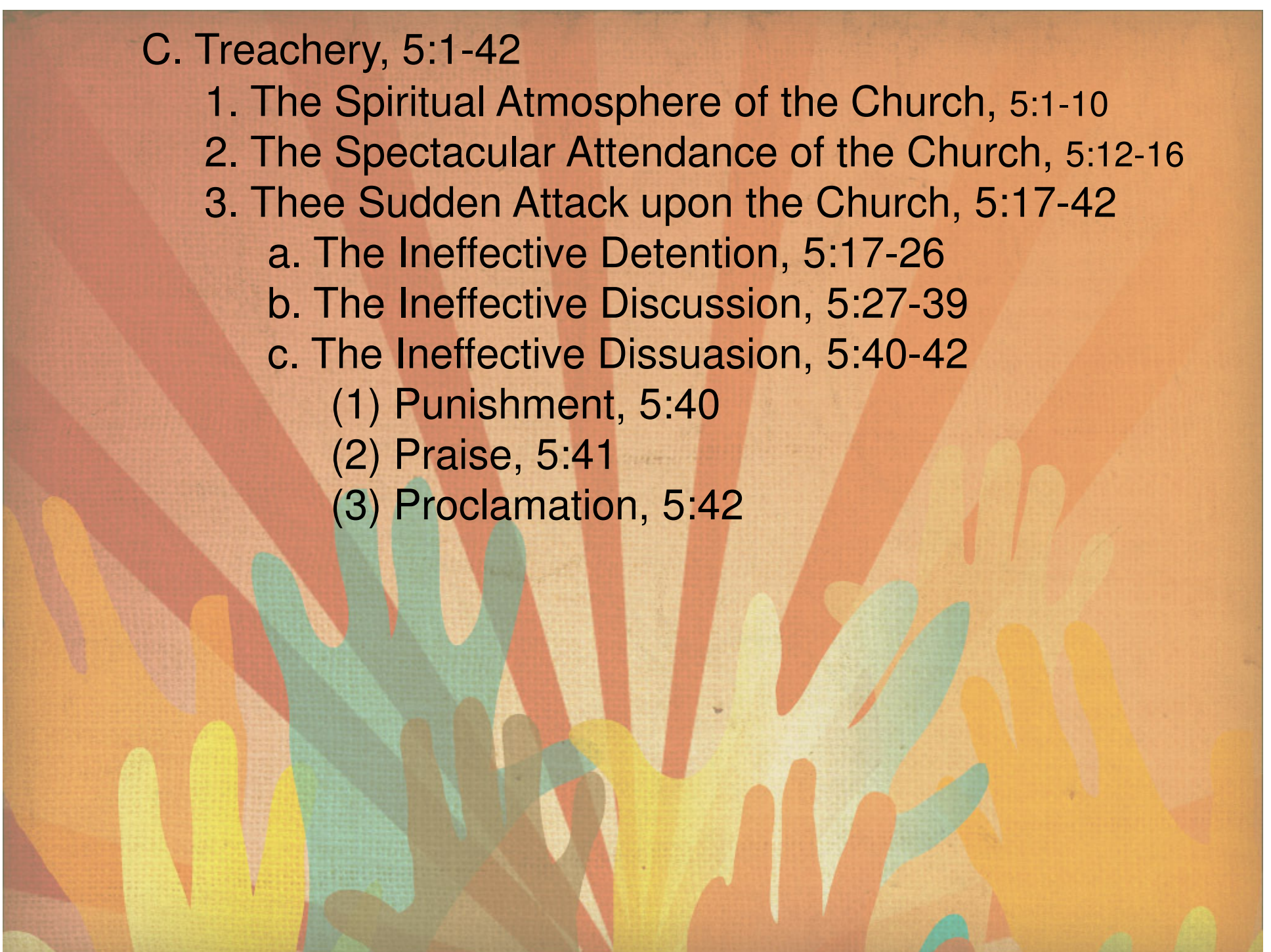
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A. The First Ministers, 6:1-7

1. Division, 6:1

a. Growth, 6:1a

Acts 6:1a “And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied...”

Original Word: μαθητής

Transliteration: mathētés

Definition: a learner, disciple, pupil.

mathētés (from *math-*, the "mental effort needed to think something through") – **properly, a learner; a disciple, a follower of Christ who learns the doctrines of Scripture and the lifestyle they require; <http://biblehub.com/greek/3101.htm>**

b. Grievance, 6:1b

Acts 6:1b “...there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.”

Original Word: παραθεωρέω

Transliteration: paratheóreo

Definition: I look past, overlook, neglect

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3865.htm>

2. Addition, 6:2-6

a. The Meeting, 6:2a

Acts 6:2a “Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*...”

b. The Motion, 6:2b-5a

Acts 6:2b “...and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.”

- The Priority – “...It is not reason that we should leave the word of God...”

Original Word: καταλείπω

Transliteration: kataleipó

Definition: I leave behind, desert, abandon, forsake; I leave remaining, reserve.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2641.htm>

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

- The Practicality – “...and serve tables.”
- The Process (or Polity)
 - The Apostles directions (call for a business meeting and direct it)

Acts 6:3 “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom...”

The criteria for the deacons:

- “...men of honest report...”

Original Word: μαρτυρέω

Transliteration: martureó

Definition: I witness, bear witness, give evidence, testify, give a good report.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3140.htm>

- “...full of the Holy Ghost...”
- “...and wisdom...”

1 Tim. 3:8 Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.

11 Even so *must their wives be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- The Congregation decides (cf. 6:5b) (congregational polity)
- The Apostles delegate – “...whom we may appoint over this business.”
- The Pleasing – “And the saying pleased the whole multitude...”

c. The Men, 6:5b-6

Acts 6:5b “...and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid *their* hands on them.”

“...and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:”

Acts 11:22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

3. Multiplication, 6:7

a. Its Scope, 6:7a

Acts 6:7a “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly...”

b. Its Significance, 6:7b

Acts 6:7b “...and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

- First, the church showed concern for both spiritual and physical needs.
- Second, the early church was willing to adapt its organizational structure and administrative procedures: to minister effectively and to meet needs.
- Third, the early church did not practice some things that the modern church does.



Conclusion

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

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7 And **the word of God** increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were **obedient to the faith**.

Rom. 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing **by the word of God**.

2 Tim. 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**.

1 Cor. 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God...

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, **it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe**.