

*Who Adds to the Church  
Daily? and Where?*

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**"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."  
(Acts 2:47)**

*7-1: A textual and exegetical outline of the verse above, also even topical and expository as we see how it summarizes all that happened in Christianity up to this point in history.*

1. Who did the additions to the church? Not the pastor, a visiting evangelist, or ever zealous "soul-winners" in the local church; but the LORD God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. While none would deny the uniqueness and great contribution of the First church in Jerusalem with the Apostle James as pastor, and with so many who had seen the Risen Christ themselves, it was "to the church", the church of the one body of Christ and the assembly of the Firstborn {Jesus was the firstborn of all Christians that came after Him, and after the preaching and teaching which was in His name}. To properly understand this, you must carefully study the approximately 128 times the word "ecclesia" for church or assembly is found in the New Testament. {A good analytical concordance can help you with this like Young's or

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Strong's.} Granted that some of them that collectively joined together at the place of assembly were also added to the church of the firstborn written in heaven (Hebrews 11:6), but by no means all. The ones being selectively added to the church roll up there in heaven was determined by the choice of the great God the Father. Remember what Jesus taught, "Many are called but few are chosen". (Matthew 20:16) Obviously there are at least 4 factors affecting revival of this "one a day additions" today: (1) this was a one time shot of a few years for the Jewish nation, notice that it tapered somewhat as Paul got out primary among the Gentiles {however still fewer also Jews}; (2) there has been some very good years of evangelism among Americans and by Americans to the world, that came to almost a sudden halt about 1968, the same time that Billy Graham became less popular, and that tends to mark for us the solid beginning of the great apostasy in Christianity called the Falling Away (II Timothy 3:3,4)<sup>1</sup>; (3) with this deep Falling Away of present Christianity, churches and denominations have gone so far into (a) intolerance toward sound doctrine, (b) motivation by church member "wants", (c) the heaping up of pastors and other teachers with "itching ears", and the business of additions as Christianity "turns away from truth"<sup>2</sup>; that the atmosphere of churches no longer has the convictions, dedication, or Spirit for "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" (the Acts text of this series on refreshing evangelism); and (4) it is all over during the Falling Away's last "little time"<sup>3</sup> as Satan is released from bondage for a little while, because no longer<sup>4</sup> will there be the additions of the Lord aspect through the work of the Holy Spirit to "convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment"<sup>5</sup>.

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1. This gives us approximately 40-50 years into the Falling Away, approaching the approximately 80 years the Bible's example of a Falling Away teaches us in Hebrews, a Falling Away of God's original people in the wilderness because of a lack of faith in the Living God of the Living.
  2. All that remains for the American church in the 5 stages of the Falling Away is the last, and the one that seals the doom of the church on earth, as God "turns them into fables". You must notice the exponential growth in fables with the Scofield notes, Mormonism, and the fundamentalists fake literalism, even with kind of evangelism that has come from the Ted Haggart types, from the purpose driven substitution for "wants" in the place of Christ and the Spirit, the LeHaye distortions of the non-biblical words of "rapture" and "millineum" substituted for the real Bible of the Second Coming and "the restoration of all things" only at the end of the time of this old earth, and other complications of denominations too controversial to even mention in the present atmosphere of extreme tolerance of unsound doctrine of America.
  3. Surely even you fundamentalists with your fake literalism must see that there is little more than a "little time" left with the recent surrounding of by Muslims bent on the destruction of Jerusalem, the dragging of all nations into the area for the great battle of Armaggadeon.
  4. According to II Thessalonians 2:7, what has kept Satan in bondage up to now is the "restraining" work of the Holy Spirit, and when He is withdrawn from earth, there will be no limitations for a little while on the work of the Holy Spirit.

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*7-2: "Were BEING saved" in Acts 2:47 is the equivalent of the BEs and Cs for conversion that were discussed earlier in a previous Bible study session.*

1. Remember the "Repent therefore and be converted" of the series text of Acts 3:19, and from Jesus the "Believe and Be Baptized" teaching from Jesus of Mark 16:16 with the explanation from other Scripture how the "one baptism" is the one salvation of the 7 major doctrines of the Bible.<sup>1</sup>
2. You can consider "were being saved" in two ways: (1) that since additions were made daily, that the "were being saved" applied to the time sequence that went on right up to the cutting off of Jews at the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem<sup>2</sup>; and/or (2) as God was at work among them and the newly arrived presence of the Holy Spirit on earth to convict the world of sin, of righteous, and of judgment, it speaks more of the quality of the early church and Christianity, as God and the Spirit were daily at work having many called and chosen to be saved!
3. Actually 3 ways in that complete salvation is a process of past present, and future of more godliness and Christlikeness, it could mean that in the initial days of Christianity after the Ascension of Christ, early Christians were just starting salvation from God and the Spirit that continued a lifetime.

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*7-3: How good do you think Acts 2:47 is as a summary of all that happened in Acts up to that point, of Acts even up to the text of the series--Acts 3:19-21? And maybe it should be considered as a summary of all of Acts if we consider the "Outreach for the*

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5. John 16:8-11.

1. Hopefully you are enjoying the free online Bible study called "Life and Letters of Paul" derived and added to from the Bible commentary in the 6 LEARN CHRIST commentaries, also summarizing the 14 NT letters of the Apostle Paul under "Believe and Be Baptized". You will see this even more as Refreshing Evangelism comes to the appendix with study of the book of Romans, with the great passages on what baptism really is.
2. Forecast by Jesus in the great "last things" passage of Matthew 24 and Mark 13.

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*Unreached” other half of the great commission, the teaching and development parts.*

Some of the great moments of Bible refreshing in my own life includes (1) the book of Acts using the Moffit translation as the sophomore year at UT and at the Bible chair at University Baptist Church, where I was also on the pastor’s youth council to Dr Smith, (2) a spiritual study as a freshman at Baylor under Dr Woodfin using the RSV, and (3) The Life and Letters o Paul written by David Smith and taught at Ouachita Baptist College, and (4) during graduate work in physics, a course on the book of Revelation taught by Dr Ray Summers. Don’t get me wrong, there were many other highlights of Bible study, many times that on my own or in preparation for teaching and preaching. And how quite often I felt a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord like J.B> Phillips mentions in the preface of his commentary on Revelation or on the Life and Letters of Paul, like an electrician who in the process got ahold of a live wire. {You know, that is another good definition of Refreshing Evangelism, “like getting ahold of a live wire”. Did I hear an “amen” across the internet?

Look again at the great commission highlighted by reaching, teaching, winning, and developing; and then we will consider what is the best Scriptural summary of the book of Acts like the Acts of the Apostles, like the acts of the Holy Spirit through the apostles and other Christians, like a continuation of “all Jesus began to do or teach”, or may be even THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY ALL THAT WERE BEING SAVED!

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things which I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.<sup>1</sup>” (Matthew 28:19,20)**

1. Outreach as the same as “Go”.

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1. Did you hear that wayfaring fundamentalist? “...LO I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE.” How in the world could God be with those who are carrying out o the great commission to the very end of this old earth if all Christians and pastors, as falsely claimed by LeHaye and the Scofieldnites, if they have already long before the end been raptured from the hard times near the end, as they dream. And this is the very nature of Bible teachings on eschatology in the Bible, they are casual statements of reality, but they are always there!

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2. "Make disciples" as the equivalent of winning; however even here in the great commission there is the teaching aspect, even as making disciples is a learning process so being a disciple is a continuing process.

3. "teaching them to observe all things which I have commanded you" includes teaching and development and certainly takes time.

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*7-4: A Quick Summary of all that happened in Jerusalem and recorded in Acts by Dr Luke and the Spirit in the early days before the temple destruction under Titus of 58 A.D. with some effort at achieving a summarizing subtitle.*

**NOTE:** Let me warn you what you might find, that Real refreshing evangelism is more a daily atmosphered created in the church body and spread to an enlarging community that it is one week of revival with a revival sign and advertisement put out, or even occasional evangelistic sermons by the pastor, or even less the same sermon of instant salvation always preached without other teaching and development.<sup>1</sup> And what pastors use to impress each other at the denominational level and in conferences, is not the same as the Refreshing Evangelism of the book of Acts and the Bible.

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*7-5: As young preacher boy I puzzled over the evangelistic efforts of fundamentalists to make the salvation of others depend on how they felt about "last things". Now, I have come to realize the opposite, that we should have worried about them and the Bible perspectives from which they came, the same perspectives and motivations that led to the giant splits in the SBC, and led up to this moment in the "itching ears" Falling Away of the SBC and those less conservative around them! Just like their fake literalism, which is more a defence of isolation of their sermon topics and texts to only a few of the ALL*

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1. Other good southern baptists heritage will go under the table with the rule and captivity of the Convention by the fundamentalists of Bible Baptist background will be books like: WITH CHRIST AFTER THE LOST by Scarborough, CHURCH ADMINISTRATION by Gaines Dobbins, THE CHRISTIAN PASTOR by Wayne Oates, and etc.

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*SCRIPTURE, and uncompromising attacks on “moderates” based on the very dubious Scofield Bible Notes on eschatology was more a cover up job for their own superficialities on ALL Bible.*

**NOTE: In short we should worry about their eschatological background for evangelism in spite of that oft heard most fundamentalists of the bunch, saying, “I am too busy winning the lost”. Can any member or preacher have a Biblical view of the Scriptures on evangelism and salvation that has such a distorted understanding of real Bible on last things. For example, it is helping them little in understanding that the church is well into the Falling Away because they mistakenly think that Christians will be “raptured” out of this world before it happens! {Read on this [www.biblecombibleman.com](http://www.biblecombibleman.com) web site, “Wound of the Unheard Doctrine” and “Wounded Christians”.}**

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*7-6: Do you think that because of the unique position of Christianity now, head over heels into that great apostasy called the Falling Away, that it is time to focus more on those in your churches and denominations already at the beginning of stage 4, turning away from truth, and so close with most of your church and churches to be “turned into fables”, the last final stage of the Great Apostasy. Perhaps you can help save some of your members, helping them to “work out their own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phillipians 2:12).*

Evangelism, other than a Refreshing Evangelism, will continue to decrease like the battle for the survival of Christianity that we are in now. It is a well established fact from denomination history, the history of evangelism, and Baptist history, even the history of the SBC, that evangelism goes down during times of war, My goodness what a WAR Christianity is into now with the rising tide of the mystery of sin and lawlessness that Paul writes about in II Thessalonians, not to mention the extent of the Falling Away and the approach of the “little season” when the Great Evangelist, the Holy Spirit is withdrawn from earth {also in II Thessalonians 2:7} It is so unfortunate that churches and denominations get so involved in their own customs, traditions, and concepts and terminology that they are not at all awake to the drastic change in the history of Christianity of these present days. You know for example that while “evangelism” and Christianity are clearly essential to theology and history, they

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are not Biblical words. That is why a refreshed study of the book of Acts might get us more into a Refreshed evangelism both more Bible based and consistent with these terminal days of this old earth!

This is not to say at all that evangelism, the outreach for the unreached and making disciples--the first 50% of the great commission--is to be ignored; but with emphasis as much on the second 50, the teaching them to observe all things and the development. And when you consider that making disciples is a lifetime process, the second half actually becomes more like 66.6% or one third of the work of the pastor and the work of the ministry. Especially should all you assigned work by the Ascended Christ (Ephesians 4:11)--that is, "pastors and teachers, evangelists, and prophets"--both brace yourself for the little season as the Spirit is withdrawn from earth, loosing Satan, and the completion of the Falling Away when Christ Comes Again, and the battle is over in victory.

Now, the critical part: there is no way a less than Biblical truth and reality on last things will lead you into such a re-arrangement of great commission realities, if you think and preach: (1) that Christians will not be part of the Falling Away, and (2) if you fail to recognize that your church members are already in the Falling Away, and (3) if you do not admit to the Refreshing Evangelism of Acts 3:19-21 where "times of refreshing" happen right up to the end, the restoration of all things, at the Second Coming of Christ.

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### 7-7: *WHERE?*

To say with confidence that the LORD and Lord add to the church of the Firstborn {the Lord Jesus Christ was the firstborn of the assembly}, written in heaven<sup>1</sup>, seems to not tell the whole story; and it remains somewhat of a mystery for eternity as to the correlations between local churches and the assembly roll call in heaven. Living, as we should, by "every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" as Jesus taught, we are compelled by exegesis of the Bible to reconcile Acts 2:47b--"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved"--with Acts 2:41:

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1. Bottom line of the 128 times ecclesia is used in the NT, meaning church of assembly, is that the only real, eternal meaning is the church roll written in heaven, recorded in the Lamb's book of life. Other church rolls are not to be neglected to the extent that there is some correlation between the membership rolls of the local church and the general assembly of the firstborn written in heaven.

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**“Then those who gladly received the word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” (Acts 2:41)**

The counting of numbers, except that a lot of souls were saved, was not then as important to the Holy Spirit and Dr Luke, both of whom wrote the book of Acts use the log manuscript of the Apostle Paul. If it were the BBF<sup>1</sup>, they could give you an exact number, for counting is by and large, with show, what they are all about. However, the prime point here is that these words of Acts which came out of the mouth of God, counted it worthy of mention as commendable to the local church in Jerusalem that in one day only, 3000 souls were added to them. One might make a fine point of distinction that the adding to the local assembly of 3000 is not exactly, and precisely, the same as the Lord adding daily to the church of the firstborn written in heaven. {Unless the BBF has bean counters better than big business, surely even their august body can not add 3,000 every day; and in fact, after their takeover with the split of the convention into 3 conventions, and the subsequent 20 years of rule over the SBC<sup>2</sup>, the lack of love in their hearts that allowed them to destroy so many carriers and reputations of pastors and seminary teachers has become more evident. They are now, like the local church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22), lukewarm and in the process of being spewed out. This is one reason that when they get converts to their local church, they are so eager to share those numbers with the Convention, as if there was a direct correlation between the church roll of their local churches and the assembly written in heaven.

It is apparent that at least one member of that first local assembly in Jerusalem, in spite of their excellent Pastor, James, was not enrolled simultaneously in the church of the firstborn written in heaven. Ananias and his wife purported to be part of the sharing, that started the first middle class in the world, in the assembly at Jerusalem; however having lied to the Holy Spirit, and taking credit before the assembly and the apostles for the giving of the whole

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1. Bible Baptists Fundamentalists who now control the Southern Baptist Convention. While they won the votes to elect a President, replace board members and pastors and seminary and college teachers, they still about 29 years later have not won the hearts of southern baptists. And the more they superficialities on Bible literalism becomes obvious, especially on their proposed literalism of Scofield notes on eschatology becomes obvious, the less those dedicated southern baptists are likely to accept their leadership.
  2. Southern Baptist Convention



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amount, immediately died as they were caught in the hypocritical lie<sup>1</sup> of sharing!

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1. Something the rich in America today should heed, especially if they are church members and only share out of their abundance a little.

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