

I. The characteristics of an effective church (v. 1-3)

A. They had godly leaders

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

B. They were united in Christ

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body –whether Jews of Greeks, slave or free – and we are all given the one Spirit to drink.” (I Corinthians 12:12-13)

C. They met to worship God

D. They taught the Word of God

E. They practiced prayer and fasting

F. They listened to the Holy Spirit

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

G. They obeyed the Holy Spirit

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

II. The first missionaries were sent out (v. 4-12)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

A. They were sent by the Holy Spirit

“But the Lord said to Ananias, ‘Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.’” (Acts 9:15)

*Map of Paul’s 1st missionary journey

B. They went proclaiming the Word of God

C. They encountered opposition

*Cartoon Picture...

1. To keep us away from God he devil uses people of influence

2. To keep us away from God the devil uses deception

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”
(Matthew 7:15)

3. To keep us away from God the devil uses selfish ambition

D. They engaged in spiritual warfare

1. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit

2. Paul confronted the enemy’s lies

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

3. Paul presented the truth of God

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

4. God judged the enemy with blindness

E. They enjoyed spiritual victory