

“Congregational Strength”

1 Cor. 16:13

Introduction

- I. God expects the church to be strong wherever it is located (Eph. 6:10; Col. 1:5-11).
- II. Strength is not always found in numbers (ref. Gideon).

Discussion

- I. What are ways that will help a congregation to be strong?
 - A. Fill it with God's Word (Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb 5:12-14; 2 Pet. 3:18).
 - B. Fill it with faith (2 Thess. 1:3; Rom. 1:5-8).
 - C. Fill it with love (1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Cor. 13:1-7).
 - D. Fill it with devotion and zeal (Rev. 3:14-19; John 2:13-17).
 - E. Make sure it has good leadership (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1).
 - F. Make sure that it is united (1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 4:32-34; Eph. 4:3; Rom. 16:17-18).
 - G. Make it friendly and benevolent (Prov. 18:24; 2 Cor. 9:7; Rom. 12:8).
 - H. Make sure that it worships scripturally (John 4:23-24; 1 Cor. 14:15).
 - I. Keep it unspotted (James 1:27; Rom. 12:1-2).
 - K. Keep the members working (Eph. 2:10; 1 Tim. 5:10; 6:18; Col. 1:10).
- II. What are ways to destroy a congregation?
 - A. Backsliding (2 Pet. 2:20-22; Luke 9:62).
 - B. Gossip and backbiting (Eph. 4:29; 1 Tim. 5:13; James 4:11; Prov. 18:8).
 - C. Laziness (Prov. 13:4; 2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8).
 - D. Lack of knowledge and application (2 Tim. 4:1-4; 2 Tim. 2:15).
 - E. Selfishness (Phil. 2:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:2-4; Gal. 6:2).

Conclusion

- I. The local congregation is vital to the strength of the church worldwide.
- II. Are we doing what we can to make sure that the congregation is strong?