

“The Purpose of the First Church”
Hebrews 10:23-25

I. The first church stood on the confession that Christ is the Son of God (v. 42).

- A. They held fast the confession of their hope.
- B. They held fast without wavering.

(Matthew 16:13-18; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2; 15:3-4; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-5)

II. The first church were strengthened by meeting.

III. The first church demonstrates God’s purpose for His church (vs. 37-42).

- A. God’s people are called to be separate from the world.
- B. God’s people are called to be in fellowship with God.
- C. God’s people are called to be in fellowship with other believers.

(John 15:16; 18-19; 17:14-16)

Scripture References and Notes

continued steadfastly [προσκαρτερέω (proskartereó)]

- I persist, persevere in, continue steadfast in; I wait upon.
- (from *prós*, "towards, interactively *with*" and *kartereō*, "show steadfast strength," derived from *krátos*, "prevailing strength")
- properly, to consistently showing strength which *prevails* (in spite of difficulties); to *endure* (remain firm), *staying* in a *fixed direction*.
- [*proskartereō* means "to continue to do something with intense effort, with the possible implication of despite difficulty – 'to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in'" (*L & N*, 1, 68.68).]

Philippians 1:27-30 (NASB)

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind **striving together** for the faith of the gospel,²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of

salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

striving together [ἀθλέω (athleó)]

- I engage, compete, in an (athletic) contest.
- I compete together with others, cooperate vigorously with.

1 Peter 2:4-5

⁴ Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:13-18

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" ¹⁴ So they said, "Some *say* John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

¹ And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...

stir up [παροξυσμός (paroxusmos)]

- stimulation, provocation, irritation, angry dispute.
- a provocation which literally jabs (cuts) someone so they "*must*" respond.

exhorting [παρακαλέω (parakaleó)]

- I send for, summon, invite, (b) I beseech, entreat, beg, (c) I exhort, admonish, (d) I comfort, encourage, console.
- (from *pará*, "*from* close-beside" and *kaléō*, "to call") – properly, "make a call" from being "close-up and personal." *parakaléō* ("personally make a call") refers to believers *offering up evidence that stands up in God's court*.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NASB)

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

church [ἐκκλησία (ekklésia)]

- an assembly, congregation, church; the Church, the whole body of Christian believers.
- (from *ek*, "out from and to" and *kaléō*, "to call") – properly, people *called out from* the world and to God, the *outcome* being the *Church* (the mystical *body of Christ*) – i.e. the universal (total) body of believers whom God calls *out* from the world and *into* His eternal kingdom.

John 15:16, 18-19

¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 17:14-16

¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

*Bolded Scripture references are not in the bulletin notes, but are available in the full notes on the church website. You may access these at <https://www.firstbaptistcp.com/sermon-archive/>.