**1ST CENTURY: THE PEOPLE OF GOD [A]**

**Jeremiah 6:16 – 19**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The 21st century church must ever hold before itself the image of the 1st century church.

2. Many today, to include some in the church, confuse modern “churchianity” with pure,

 Primitive and “old fashion” Christianity.

3. On the whole, the world has strayed away from the “old paths” of New Testament Christianity.

 A. With this in mind, [we] need to fully evaluate God’s Word for its specific brand of

 1st century Christianity and imitate it (1 Cor 11:1).

**BODY:**

**1. CHRISTIANITY IS NOT THE PRODUCT OF MAN’S INGENUITY**

A. MAN’S reasoning had **NO** part developing New Testament Christianity (1 Cor 1:19-24).

 1. To be certain, MAN had previously failed to provide a way (Rom 1:21, 22).

 B. The reason is MAN’S mind is too feeble to envision Christianity (Jer 10:23; 1 Cor 2:9).

 C. New Testament Christianity is a walk of faith with God (2 Cor 5:7).

 1. This faith is from God and by His Will (Jn 6:44, 45; Rom 10:17).

 2. It is by this faith that man is justified (Rom 5:1, 2).

**2. CHRISTIANITY IS A RELIGION OF GOING**

A. The early Christians were propelled by the Great Commission (Mt 28:19, 20).

B. Likewise, their concern for the salvation of souls impelled them to go (Ac 5:42; 8:4).

1. By studying the Book of Acts, [we] can verify how the early church was very much

 involved in going with the gospel.

**3. CHRISTIANITY IS A RELIGION OF SACRIFICE**

 A. Christianity points to the sacrifice of all.

1. Paganism and Old Testament worship called for sacrifice of other’s bodies.

2. Christianity calls for one to sacrifice their own body.

A. Christ gave Himself (Php 2:6-11).

 1. Remember, He is our example to follow in His Steps (1 Pet 2:21).

 B. The disciples sacrificed their bodies (Php 2:17).

 3. The present day Christian is called upon to sacrifice.

A. Our bodies are to be a “living sacrifice” (Rom 12:1, 2).

B. [We] must be willing to sacrifice our own will to do God’s Will (Gal 2:20).

**4. CHRISTIANITY IS A VICTORIOUS RELIGION**

A. From the very beginning, vast numbers embraced it (Ac 2:40; 4:4; 4:32; 5:14).

B. The early church was successful in carrying out the Great Commission (Col 1:23).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. As the “church” today, it is imperative [we] practice the same things the early church did in

 order to imitate her (1 Cor 11:1).

1. Failure to be OBEDIENT will result in being outside of Christ and ultimately lost.
2. Lk 6:46; 2 The 1:6-10; Jude 3