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

**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 A RELIGION OF KNOWLEDGE**

A. Judaism failed for a number of reasons:

 1. Their lack [do **NOT** know] of knowledge (Isa 1:3, 4).

 2. Their lack [rejection] of knowledge (Hos 4:6).

 3. Their lack [zeal] of knowledge (Rom 10:1-3).

 B. To instill in MAN God’s Knowledge (1 The 4:13; 2 Tim 2:15; 3:16, 17; 2 Pet 1:3).

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

A. In the New Testament, it is clear the early church understood the intended concept.

 1. Several examples of this conviction outlined within the New Testament Scriptures:

 A. Stephen (Ac 6:9 – 7:60)

 B. Aquila and Pricilla (Rom 16:3, 4)

 C. Paul (2 Cor 11:23 – 28)

 D. Epaphroditus (Php 2:25 – 30)

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

A. The church is composed of those **NO** longer of the world (1 Jn 2:15-17; 5:4, 5).

 1. The early Christians had their citizenship in heaven (Php 3:20).

 A. They were “in Christ” and being so excludes ALL who are **NOT**.

 B. The early Christians were distinct and unique (Tit 2:11-15) in the following:

 1. Holiness and Purity

 2. Worship and Service

 3. Name and Doctrine

**4. CHRISTIANITY IS A RELIGION OF REFLECTION AND EXAMPLE**

A. This was in matters of doctrine, **BUT** it was **NOT** limited to this.

 B. It was evident in the LIVES of the early Christians (2 Cor 3:2).

 1. To be specific, this was a fundamental teaching of Christ (Mt 5:13-16).

 A. Apostles (Php 2:14-16)

**CONCLUSION:**

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

 order to imitate her.

 A. Failure to do will result in our being lost.