

Introduction:

Today we will begin looking at *the growth of the church*.

Things we will look at in this lesson:

The Purifying of the Church

The Purifying of the Church:

01. How did unity show itself in the early church?

02. How can we describe being a Christian?

03. What is the focal point of the gospel?

04. What is vital for the church?

05. What were believers in the early church free to do with their money?

06. What is Barnabas an example of?

07. What happens when we give generously to God and His people?

08. How did Ananias and Sapphira decide to build their reputations?

09. What were Ananias and Sapphira doing while the church was giving testimony of the resurrection?

10. What was the reaction from the church when God judged Ananias and Sapphira?

11. What is the first thing the judgement of Ananias and Sapphira tells us?

12. What would have happened if the lie of Ananias and Sapphira had been left unaddressed?

13. What should the story of Ananias and Sapphira motivate us to do?

Article 1)

Were Ananias and Sapphira saved?

There appear to be several reasons to believe that they probably were:

(1) Their story is told in the context of the actions of “all the believers” (Acts 4:32).

(2) They knew of the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3).

(3) Ananias’ lie could have been an earlier promise that he would give the whole amount of the sale to the Lord.

(4) They received discipline (Hebrews 12:8; 1 Corinthians 5:12).

Ananias and his wife had conspired to garner the accolades of the church; but their conspiracy led to the sin unto death (1 John 5:16). The “sin unto death” is willful, continuous, unrepentant sin. God has called His children to holiness. God corrects them when they sin (Hebrews 12:6; 1 Peter 1:16).

The case of Ananias and Sapphira illustrates the fact that even believers can be led into bold, flagrant sin. It was Satan that had filled their hearts to lie in this way and “to test the Spirit of the Lord” (Acts 5:3, 9). Covetousness, hypocrisy, and a desire for the praise of men all played a part in their demise.