

THOUGHTS ON ACTS 5:1-11. THE DEATH OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

1. The Newborn Church, hardly out of its swaddling clothes, was as vulnerable as a new born child. At this time:
 1. It was without influence or power in the ordinary sense.
 2. It was setting forth courageously and joyfully to win the pagan world to God through Christ.
 3. This New Born church was born in poverty and was therefore without money.

~~MEMOR~~

 4. To relieve this situation some sold their possessions and gave the price thereof to the church.
 5. The idol of gold usurped God's place in the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira..
 - (1) They became the first hypocrites in the church; They feigned generosity but practiced a lie.
2. The result:
 1. Death. All sin is death. Rom. 6:23.
 2. These lethal strokes were not inflicted "to make friends and influence people." Great fear came upon all the church, and as many as heard these things.
 3. If every covetous person in the pulpits and in the pews of churches today were to be smitten dead at 10 o'clock Sunday morning many an eleven o'clock service would have to be postponed.
3. The form that this particular miracle took. It was violent, unusual, deadly in nature. It was intended to teach the church a basic lesson...one of which we need to be constantly reminded. THE LESSON IS THIS:
 1. THE CHURCH MUST BE:
 - (1) Pure...For purity is a condition of power.
 - (2) The church must be clean for cleanliness is a definite condition of conquering for Christ.
 - (3) The church must be a disciplined church in order to have the strength to dare and do.
 - (4) The church must be a holy church in order to be a happy church.

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