

INTRODUCTION.

- A. These were members of the church at Jerusalem. The church was not many months old and this record is for our warning.
- B. A lesson to be learned that God is sovereign.
- C. Let us take a look at Ananias and Sapphira.

I. THE FIRST RECORDED DEATH IN THE CHURCH.

- A. First recorded sin in the church--lying.
- B. Not sufficient recognition given to significance of these deaths.
- C. This occurrence had a fundamental significance.
- D. The Lord had visited upon them the extreme penalty.
- E. This was recorded to show God's displeasure with lying.

II. HISTORY OF THE CASE.

- A. Food supply of many had been exhausted.
- B. Many sold their possessions and gave to the apostles.
- C. Liberality of the church had attracted the eyes of the world.
- D. Ananias and Sapphira sold theirs and brought a PART of the price and represented it as ALL.

III. WHAT WAS THEIR SIN?

- A. Not that they had kept back a part.
- B. Not only that they had lied to men.
- C. Not only that they had lied to God.
- D. But that they lost the sense of God.
- E. Failed to recognize God as the Inspector of their lives.
- F. Lost the sense of the inward life for the outward glory.

IV. THE RESULTS.

- A. Fear came on the church.
- B. Heart-searching power of God revealed.
- C. This sin was connected with the Lord's treasury.
- D. We should not overrate our liberality.
- E. Neither under-rate our ability to give.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We must recognize God as being sovereign.
- B. We must recognize God as one who knows all things.
- C. We must recognize God as one who needs to be obeyed according to His Word.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.