



# What Does Church Look Like?

12 July 2020

(Part 6)

**Acts 2:42-47**

John 14:15-27

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

## What Does Church Look Like? (Acts 2:42-47)

- This passage, as is all Scripture, was written for our learning. (Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- We are also learning what Church is in our Ephesians Bible study as we study chapters 4-6.
- Scripture is given to us to teach us **how** to do things God's way. We are commanded to do everything God's way. (Deut 5:3; 10:12-13; Joshua 22:5)
- God does not accept our ways of worship! He only accepts worship, church, prayer done His way.
- We have to ask ourselves, "Is what is **written** in God's Word for us to do and to do it exactly?" Only two answers.
- Will we be church God's way or our way? Most will choose their way!

## They Continued Steadfastly (Acts 2:42)

- (v. 42) **Continuing steadfastly** (devoted) προσκαρτερέω - committed to the Lord and each other.

## TOP Four Priorities of a Church and Her Members

- ① Continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine - God's doctrine - His **written** Word.
  - ② Continuing steadfastly in fellowship/koinonia.
  - ③ Continuing steadfastly in breaking bread together and remember who they are by the works of God in sending His Son into the world to die for **them**.
  - ④ Continuing steadfastly in prayer together.
- ★ Are these **TOP** priorities for you? Are you **being** Church to your brothers and sisters?

## They Continued Steadfastly in Doctrine (Acts 2:42)

- All Christians/disciples are obligated to be serious student of God's Word.

- Consider what Jesus said, "IF **MY** Word abides in you, you are My disciple indeed." To abide in His Word one must study it and live it. (John 8:31)
- OR, "If one ignores My Word he/she is a fool. A wise person does whatever My Word says." (Matthew 7:24-27)
- (Psalm 119:105) If you are not living according to the **written** Word of God you are walking in darkness.
- (James 1:22) If you are not doing what God's **written** Word says then you are only deceiving yourself in that you are a Christian.
- ★ Christians do not sin and they have a life-style of practicing righteousness in accordance with God's **written** Word. (1 John 3:6-10)
- ☆ Satan has deceived many in convincing them that the studying and living the **written** Word of God's Word is not necessary.

## They Continued Steadfastly in Fellowship

- κοινωνία koinonia {koy-nohn-ee'-ah}
  - 1) fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse 1a) the share which one has in anything, participation
  - 2) to have in common with each other
- FELLOWSHIP "is the spiritual duty of believers to stimulate each other to **holiness and faithfulness**." (Hebrews 10:24-25)
  - See handout "Koinonia Defined by God"
- ☆ Satan has deceived many in convincing that they can define what koinonia is and that intimate fellowship, as defined by God, is not necessary for a Christian.

## They Continued Steadfastly in Breaking Bread Together

- They gathered together continually to **remembered!**
- They continued steadfastly in reminding themselves that they were **ONE in Christ**. John 17:21-23

## They Continued Steadfastly in Prayer

- Prayer is for the glory of God. We pray to glorify God. (John 14:13; 1 Cor 10:31; 1 Peter 4:11)
- ALL Christians pray.
- Churches are commanded to pray together.
- We are commanded to ALWAYS pray. (Luke 18:1; 2 Thess 5:17; Eph 6:11)
- Many want to do anything BUT pray. Prayer, often, gets put on "if I have enough time" list.
- Martin Luther said, "I have so much to do that I must pray!"
- We are to PRAY individually and corporately.
- ☆ Satan has deceived many in convincing them that an intimate prayer life and praying as a Church is not necessary.

## The Feared God (v. 43)

- (Hebrews 12:28) We are to serve God with **reverence and fear**.
- The FEAR or AWE is an overwhelming feeling of the closeness of God.
- AWESOME: **an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, fear, etc., produced by that which is grand, sublime, and extremely powerful.**
- (Psalm 2:10-11) Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling!
  - The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. (Prov. 1:7; Psalm 111:10)
  - Wisdom leads to understanding (which is the shunning of all evil).
  - Wisdom can only come from an awareness of God and His purpose.
- The fear of God **persuades** us to tell others! **2 Corinthians 5:11**
- Many do not have a genuine awe (fear) of God because they do not know Him. (See handout: The Revealed God)

## They Witnessed the Supernatural (Acts 2:43)

- The greatest miracle in the Old Testament was the EXODUS.
- The greatest miracle in the New Testament was the RESURRECTION of Christ.
- A person being born-again is the greatest miracle we should desire.
- Jesus always performed miracles in order to teach a spiritual truth. He performed miracles to authenticate His person and His message.
- We are NOT to seek signs! (Matthew 12:38-39)
- Signs are for UNBELIEVERS and NOT BELIEVERS.
- The seeking of signs is **normally** self-centered and not God-centered.
- **SITUATION:** A close family member has been diagnosed with cancer. For what should you pray?

## They Experienced Christ's Presence (John 14:15, 21-24)

- (John 14:15) The **natural** expression of love of Christ is obedience.
- (John 14:21) Christ's promises:
  - ① My Father will love you.
  - ② I will love you.
  - ③ I will manifest Myself to you.
  - ④ My Father and I will make our home with you.
- To whom is Christ promising:
  - ① To those who love Him.
  - ② Those who "have My commandments" – own them for themselves.
  - ③ Those who "keeps on keeping" - PRESENT TENSE - His commandments.
    - (1 John 2:3-4) How can I be sure that I truly know Christ? Do I obey His commandments as they are communicated in His **written** Word?
    - We are saved through the gift of faith. The fruit of *saving faith* is obedience. (Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:10)

- The promises are NOT for those who do not love Christ.
- The promises are NOT for those who ignore, disregard, do not take seriously, disobey His commandments.
- BUT to those who DO obey His commandments He comes NEAR to and makes His home with them.
- What does it mean to "manifest" and "make our home with"?
  - His presence is REAL. (Job 42:5; John 14:18; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5)
  - His assurances are REAL. (Hebrews 11:13-16; Romans 8:36-37; 1 John 3:19)
  - Strengthened in His might to do His work. (1 Timothy 4:17; Isaiah 41:10; 41:14; 2 Corinthians 12:9)
  - His comforts are REAL. (Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 43:1-2)
    - ★ Ephesians 3:18-19
  - Endurance in the midst of trials. (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 12:9)
  - We become examples for others. (1 Thessalonians 1:6-7; 2 Thess 1:4; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Timothy 4:12)
  - **Used by God to take His Word to the world.** (1 Thessalonians 1:8; Acts 8:4; Acts 1:8)
- The Church (the people) is the "holy temple in the Lord"; we are a "dwelling place of God in the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22)

## Remembering the Saints at Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)

- (v. 8) "I know your **works**."
  - What works? Anything and everything the Master commands.
- (v. 8) "I have set before you an open door." A door to service.
- (v. 10) "Because you kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial . . ."

## Remembering Those at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

- (v. 15) "I know your **works**."
- (vv. 16-17) "You make me sick. You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. And yet, you say, "I am rich, wealthy, and in need of nothing."
- (v. 17) "You are self-righteous, -justifying, -sufficient, -centered, etc."
- (v. 20) "I cannot dwell (make My home) with those who do not love and obey Me."

## Is Christ Dwelling or Knocking?

### A Call to Prayer: 2 Chronicles 7:14