

The Early Church

Acts 2:42-47

Introduction:

We know from the Bible that there is only one true church. It is every Christian's job to make sure that we are a part of that one church. In Acts 2, we have a great picture of what the early church was like. We need to be like them.

- I. The early church "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine" (42).
 - A. The early church did what the apostles' told them to do.
 1. The apostles had authority on earth.
 - a. The apostles were with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry.
 - b. When the apostles chose Matthias, they were concerned about getting someone who had been with them from the beginning (Acts 1:21-22)
 2. They did not teach their own things, but they had help.
 - a. John 14:16 - And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever
 - b. John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
 - c. John 15:26 - But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.
 3. The things that the apostles taught were really from God.
 - a. Matt 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
 - b. John 14:24 - He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.
 - B. We too, today, are to keep His commandments.
 1. John 14:15 - If you love Me, keep My commandments.
 2. John 15:14 - You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.
- II. The early church was a prayerful church (42).
 - A. To the early church, prayer was a lifestyle.
 1. Notice a few passages on prayer in the book of Acts.
 - a. Acts 1:24 - the selection of Matthias
 - b. Acts 6:4 - The apostles "will give ourselves continually to

- prayer.”
- c. Acts 10:1-2 – Cornelius prayed to God always.
 - d. Acts 10:9 – Peter was praying when he saw a vision from God.
 - e. Acts 16:25 – Paul and Silas were praying from prison.
 - f. Acts 20:36 – Paul prayed just before leaving the Ephesian elders.
2. Prayer was not something that they did only when they were in trouble.
- B. We also need to make our lives a prayerful life.
1. Ps 62:8 - Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.
 2. We are to continue in our prayers.
 - a. Eph 6:17-18 - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; { 18 } praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--
 - b. Col 4:2 - Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
 - c. I Thes. 5:17 - pray without ceasing,
 - d. Phil 4:6 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- C. We need to make prayer a lifestyle.
- III. The early church was a helpful church (44-45).
- A. The early church helped each other.
 1. Acts 4:32-37
 2. The early disciples shared everything they had with others.
 - B. We need to have the same mindset.
 1. We are commanded to give.
 - a. Matt 5:42 - Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.
 - b. Mark 10:21 - Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."
 - c. I Jn 3:17 - But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
 - d. Gal. 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
 2. Acts 20:35 - It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Conclusion:

We need to be like the early church. We need to continue in the examples that they gave us. Are you a part of that early church?