

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 2:42**.
- B. Trying to restore NT Xianity means restoring the doctrine, the practice and the attitude of the 1st century Xians.
- C. Four things the early Xians continually devoted themselves to. We should too.

## I. THEY WERE CONTINUALLY DEVOTED TO THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE.

- A. The apostle's teaching is the word of God.
- B. This is true because the apostles had all truth by the HS (Jn. 16:13).  
"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."
- C. Therefore the apostle's doctrine or teaching is;
  - 1. Sharper than a two edged sword (Heb. 4:12).  
For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
  - 2. Faith producing (Rom. 10:17).  
So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
  - 3. A giver of eternal life (Jn. 6:68).  
Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life."
  - 4. Eternal (Mt. 24:35).  
"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away."
  - 5. What we obey in being baptized (Ac. 2:41).  
So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
- D. The word of God can answer four basic questions:
  - 1. Who is Jesus Christ?
  - 2. What must I do to be saved?
  - 3. How do I live the Xian-life?
  - 4. What lies beyond death?
- E. Also, by being continually devoted to the apostles' doctrine we are carrying out the second part of the Great Commission "and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:20).

## II. THEY WERE CONTINUALLY DEVOTED TO THE FELLOWSHIP.

- A. Christians need to be together, because:
  - 1. Satan is always tempting us (1Pet. 5:8).  
Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
  - 2. We build up one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:23-24).  
Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; **24** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
  - 3. Light has no fellowship with darkness (2Cor. 6:4).  
but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses,
  - 4. More can be done financially by a group than by an individual.
- B. The same Greek word used for fellowship in 2:42 is translated contribution and participation (as in a money contribution) in Rom. 15:26. See also 2Cor. 8:4.  
(Rom 15:26) For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.  
(2Cor 8:4) begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,...
- C. As the early Xians were devoted to another, they were also devoted in giving.

- D. Some have thought that 2:44-45 were examples of communism. This is not true. Xians put their possessions together only to be able to give to those who were in need.  
*And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.*
- E. The word, "common" in 2:44 is the Greek root, and the word "fellowship" in 2:42 is the Greek root and a suffix. To have fellowship is to have things in common.

### III. THEY WERE CONTINUALLY DEVOTED TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD.

- A. This is referring to the Lord's Supper, both the bread and fruit of the vine. One cannot partake of only the bread and acceptably partake of the Lord's Supper (see 1Cor. 11:26-29).
- B. The Lord's Supper is to be taken in the assembly of the saints "gathered together" (Ac. 20:7; see 1Cor. 11:17-20).  
*(Ac 20:7) On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.*
- C. The "breaking of bread" in Ac. 2:46 is not the Lord's Supper:
  - 1. They were of one mind in the temple, but this breaking of bread is from house to house.
  - 2. It is in the assembly that the Lord's Supper is to be eaten.
  - 3. Those continually devoting themselves in 2:42 were of one mind in doing so.
- D. The breaking of bread in Ac. 2:46 also has the qualifying phrase of 'taking their meals together' of which Lk. 23:46 is similar.

### IV. THEY WERE CONTINUALLY DEVOTED TO PRAYER.

- A. Under the Jewish system prayers were to be offered three times a day:
  - 1. In the morning (9:00am).
  - 2. At noon or midday (12:00pm), (Psa. 55:7).
  - 3. At the ninth hour (3:00pm), (Ac. 3:1; Psa. 55:7).
- B. But our instructions under the law of Christ are different:
  - 1. We offer our prayers in secret (Mt. 6:6).  
*"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you."*
  - 2. We offer our prayers meaningfully (Mt. 6:7).  
*"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words."*
  - 3. We offer our prayers continually (1Th. 5:17).  
*pray without ceasing;*
  - 4. We offer our prayers in faith (Jas. 4:3).  
*You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*
- C. We have two advantages those before X and outside of X don't have:
  - 1. JC as our mediator (1Tim. 2:5).  
*For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,...*
  - 2. The HS making intercession (Rom. 8:26).  
*And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;*

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We may think of these things as simple, but they are the building blocks of power.
- B. Our invitation to share in these things is like that of Peter, "Be saved from this corrupt generation" (2:40), and "repent and be baptized" (2:38).
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.

