

PARSON TO PERSON

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42–47 (NKJV)

We have discovered that there were things said and done in the Book of Acts that are not to be viewed as the documentations and foundations for Church Age doctrine. Although the words and events were inspired and accurately recorded, they do not *all* suggest a pattern of living and practice. The Church was growing and certainly had growing pains. There was also the very real learning curve associated with anything experienced and discovered.

The first thing we see in the growing church was the fact that the new believers *“continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine.”* This is the foremost duty of every believer: the study and embrace of sound doctrine. One would not know to trust Christ or even understand who Christ really is without sound doctrine. In the case for sound doctrine, we see that the apostles themselves grew in their understanding of good doctrine as it applied to the Church Age believer. (Acts 10 and 15 illustrate this well.)

Secondly, we see that the believers continued steadfastly in... *“fellowship and the breaking of bread.”* Interpersonal fellowship involved more than “going to church together.” Christian fellowship was and is an intimacy with both God and man. Fellowship in the early Church was not just “taking communion together” but involved relationship building in and outside the church gatherings.

Thirdly, the believers in the early Church *“continued steadfastly in...prayers.”* Note that they continued in prayers—not simply one form of prayer, but many. The church spent time in prayer and prayed throughout the day. They spent time interceding (praying for others) and in prayers of supplication (prayers for personal needs). The Church communicated (fellowshipped) with God in praise and adoration. Prayers were offered to the Lord in faith by those who knew His working power, and were offered by those who were learning that He does indeed answer the prayers of those still learning to trust Him. (Acts 12 illustrates the learning curve.)

Fourthly, the early church *“had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.”* This practice was neither taught nor prolonged! It was an act of love embraced by the newly forming “congregation,” but was neither commanded nor encouraged. In fact, it quickly ended as the disciples learned and grew.

Fifthly, we see that the newly formed Church continued to worship in and around *“the temple.”* They would soon discover a rejection by those who refused to believe the truth of the Gospel and would begin meeting in homes and later in buildings and locations set aside for the developing Christian family. Christianity was and is a Jewish religion—in the truest sense of the word. However, the Jews who rejected the plan God had for them persecuted the people who followed His lead and believed all that the Scriptures had plainly declared.

Finally, the early Church learned that it was God who would grow the Church and add to their numbers *“those who were being saved.”* They discovered that their numbers would include Jew and Gentile alike.

What an awesome blessing we have to study the Book of Acts and learn all God was doing in the early Church—and is still doing with us! I love you all, Pastor Paul

WELCOME!

WE ARE BLESSED THAT YOU CHOSE CANDLELIGHT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AS YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP TODAY. WHETHER YOU ARE ATTENDING AS A GUEST OR WANT TO MAKE THIS YOUR CHURCH HOME, YOU ARE WELCOME!

WE OFFER MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR TALENTS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT OUR MINISTRIES OR SMALL GROUPS, WE INVITE YOU TO FILL OUT A COMMUNICATION CARD AND DROP IT IN THE OFFERING BOX. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

WE BELIEVE

The Bible

We believe in the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. We believe it is the inspired, inerrant, authoritative, Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; Peter 1:20-21). The Bible is sufficient in and of itself to provide us with all that pertains to life and Godliness. (2 Peter 1:2-3).

God

We believe in God (Genesis 1:1a). He is the personal, transcendent (Romans 11:33-36), eternal (Isaiah 57:15), Sovereign (Psalm 115:3) Creator (Genesis 1:1, 31) of all things. We believe He alone is God (Isaiah 43:10), He is the first and last (Revelation 22:13), there is no other. We believe He created the heavens and the earth as described in the book of Genesis and embrace a literal six-day creation model.

The Trinity

We believe that God is eternally self-existent (Exodus 3:14) and has revealed Himself as a Tri-unity of three persons (Matthew 29:19): Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as three persons (1 John 5:7) in the Godhead and yet one Lord God Almighty (Colossians 2:8-9).

Jesus

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, He is the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16), He Himself is God (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:1) incarnate (1 Timothy 3:16; John 1:14) and in Him the fullness of the Godhead is revealed to man (Colossians 2:9). Therefore, He is appropriately called God the Son.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that after Jesus ascended to heaven, He poured out His Holy Spirit upon the believers, His Church, at which time they were empowered to live a godly life and fulfill His command to preach the Gospel to the entire world (Acts 1:8, 2:4), a privilege shared by all believers today.

TODAY’S STUDY: ACTS 2 PART 7

This Week at Our Church: December 10th to December 16th

SUNDAY:

Adult Bible Study/DVD Series: 9:00am in the Chapel (2nd Floor).

AWANA: Jr. & Sr. High (Trek and Journey), 6pm

Jr. High Youth Group: Meet after 2nd service fellowship break – Chapel (2nd Floor).

Sr. High Youth Group: Meet after 2nd service fellowship break – Room 202 (2nd Floor).

RESONATE: Young Adults, ages 18 to 30. Bible Study & Fellowship, 5-7pm at the church. Questions ask for Bub Lawson.

Hispanic Fellowship: Bible Study in Spanish and English. 10:45am, GYM.

MONDAY: Ministry Meetings & Special Events

TUESDAY:

Ladies’ Bible Study 10:00am, Childcare provided. Leader: Brenda Van Noy, (208) 771-1441.

American Heritage Girls: AHG Troop 356 meets from 6:30pm to 8pm.

AHG is a Christ-centered leadership, adventure, and character development, scouting program for girls ages 6 to 18. Inquiries, please email AHGID0356@gmail.com.

Trail Life USA: TrailLife Troop 4:12 meets from 6:30pm to 8pm, Gerry Simmons, (208) 818-2966. TrailLife is a Christian adventure, character, and leadership program for boys and young men. K-12 program. More info located in the CCF Lobby or on the Candlelight website.

WEDNESDAY:

Youth High School & Jr. High: Meet at CCF @ 6PM in the GYM.

No Meeting Until Jan: Ladies’ Bible Study: 9:30am - 11:00am, Chapel.

Questions, please call Lou Shadwick, (208) 755-4586.

Sr. Single Ladies: Fellowship, Potluck Lunch, and Devotional. Contact Linda Halberg @ (208) 446-3507 for info. **All new Senior Ladies Welcome!**

Painting Class: 11:30am, Room 107, Sandy Bergeron

Teaching with Pastor Paul, Dinner & Fellowship: 6:00pm, \$1.00 donation or more for dinner. Bring a dessert to share. Childcare provided.

THURSDAY:

AWANA: AGE 3 to 5th grade (Cubbies, Sparks, Truth & Training), 6:10pm

Ladies’ Evening Bible Study: 6:15pm to 7:45pm, upstairs office. Questions, please contact Brenda Van Noy, (208) 771-1441.

FRIDAY: Ministry Meetings & Special Events

SATURDAY: Men’s Morning Bible Study: 7:30am, Chapel, call Joe DeFort for information @ (208) 215-6686.

