

SERIES:

SUBJECT: The Basics of the True New Testament Church

READING: **Act 2:39-47** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. (40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. (41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. (42) And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (43) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. (44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common; (45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need. (46) And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Introduction:

Following his sermon identifying Jesus as the messiah and exhorting the Jews to be saved **Acts 2:40** tells us.. ***“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation”***

This tells us that the Apostles continued to share the Word of God concerning the transition from law to grace; from Jesus' presence to Jesus' power through the indwelling Holy Spirit of God and to urge the people to trust Jesus Christ.

They looked on the nation of Israel as a "crooked generation" that was under condemnation **Mat 16:4 *A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas***

The Spirit of God dwelling in every believer is truly the most enabling event concerning the work we are to accomplish as believers.

1. It empowers our witness; it enables our message of transformation!
2. Baptismal regeneration and The MODERN tongues movement lacks the Biblical credentials to be a work of God;
3. The work of God unites, the work of man divides!
4. The work of God can always be authenticated, the work of man leaves us in a wilderness of wondering if this is from God!

For the most part the contemporary church movement has moved on and in an effort to appeal to people's interest, the church today emphasizes a great many different programs, methods, and approaches.

- Small group activities, sharing, and "culturally relevant" Worship services, emphasizing music and drama, have become increasingly popular. Illustration from our own church family; sister Styles and the Elevation church!
- Secular psychology, time management techniques, and advertising strategies have all made significant inroads into the life of the church.
- Seminars on everything from how to have a good marriage to how to handle money abound.

Not all of those things may be harmful. Some, in their proper place, may even be helpful when they maintain a biblical world

view. *But what has too often been sacrificed in the flurry of activities and programs **is the priority of preaching.***

1. **While some moderns may bid good riddance to preaching, SUCH HAS NOT BEEN THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHURCH THROUGH HISTORY, starting with the early church.**
2. **The first event of church history, following the coming of the Spirit, was Peter's sermon.**
 - a. It led to 3,000 conversions and launched the church.
 - b. The book of Acts is largely the record of apostolic preaching.
3. **Preaching has always remained central to the church's mission.**

Act 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

- a. Records the displeasure of the Jewish officials that the apostles "were teaching the people and proclaiming Jesus and His resurrection from the dead."
- b. **Undaunted, "*And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*" Act 2:46**
- c. **After the first great persecution of the church broke out, "*Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.*" (Acts 8:4).**

- d. [Acts 8](#) also records the PREACHING of Philip and Peter and John to the Samaritans, and Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch.
- e. It also describes the further PREACHING ministry of Philip ([v. 40](#)).

After his conversion, Paul began; **"straightway he PREACHED Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God'"** ([Acts 9:20](#)).

[Acts 11:20](#) describes the ministry of; **"...some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, PREACHING the Lord Jesus. (21) And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.**

All the way to the very last verse, Acts records how the early church **"continued to preach the gospel"** [Act 28:30-31](#) **And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, (31) Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.**

The early church's emphasis on preaching reflected that of our Lord. At the very outset of His ministry, **"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** ([Matt. 4:17](#)).

Mark records that **"after John [the Baptist] had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God"**

In [Luke 4:43](#) Jesus said, **"I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent."**

The Reformation, which helped recovery the faith lost to Catholicism, was initiated and spread largely through the revival of preaching by men like Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, and Knox.

- At the very core of the great strength of seventeenth-century Puritanism was its emphasis on sound biblical preaching.
- The Great Awakening of the eighteenth century was led through preaching by men such as George Whitefield, John Wesley, and Jonathan Edwards.
- The nineteenth century saw great evangelists, such as D. L. Moody, and great preachers, such as Charles Spurgeon, Joseph Parker, and Alexander Maclaren.

A godly man, gifted by the Spirit to preach the Word, has no equal in the presentation of God's truth. It is the God-ordained method for evangelism and edification.

Acts sets before us the results of the Preaching of the Apostles and form the basics of the New Testament church for today's needy souls;

Act 2:41-47 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (42) And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (43) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. (44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common; (45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. (46) And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the

people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

1. First it sets before us the case for baptism and church membership. *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
 - a. Water Baptism immediately followed receiving Christ; *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:*
 - b. Water Baptism is clearly set for throughout the New Testament as being by immersion in water;

When Jesus was baptized; ¹⁶ *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: Matthew 3:16*

A man of Ethiopia, an eunuch: Act 8:35-39 *Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. (36) And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? (37) And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (38) And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. (39) And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.*

- c. **That water baptism is both a church ordinance and a perquisite for church membership is clearly taught here; *and the same day there***

were added unto them about three thousand souls. Confirmed in Act 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.