

SERIES: Transition  
SUBJECT: The Basics of the True New Testament Church  
READING: [Act 2:39-47](#)

Introduction:

In our study of the transitional book of Acts which leads us from law to grace, from the temple to the church, from Christ's presence to The Spirit's power we learned last Sunday from Peter's message that God's primary method of communication of truth was coming from preaching. The sermon concluded with an invitation which called for a response to the message. The response set before us the first basics of the New Testament Church which were 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:*

When Jesus was baptized; <sup>16</sup> *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.*

- b.** That water baptism is both a church ordinance and a requisite 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.*
- 2.** This morning we begin by looking at Secondly; Acts 2:42 sets forth four more basics of the New Testament Church we should emulate; *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
  - a.** *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine.* Jesus commission to the church is seen here;

**Mat 28:19-20** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **(20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

- i.** Once they were saved, baptized, and added to the church membership the churches commission was to **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:**
  - ii.** The presentation of the Gospel is to be a part of every message when lost people

may be present even if it is not the major theme:

**Heb 6:1-3** *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, (2) Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (3) And this will we do, if God permit.*

1. The ministry of the church to the saved is clear;

Eph 4:11-15 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (14) That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

2. The Apostles Doctrines involve the **For the perfecting of the saints**, which involves bringing the saved toward Christ-likeness!
  - a. This involves education concerning or individual behavior as Christians.

**1Ti 3:15** *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is*

*the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

- i. I am afraid much of the behavior of the saints in the church is displeasing to God!
  - ii. It has been turned in little more than a Pep Rally or another form of entertainment with a little teaching or preaching tacked on.
- b. A while back I spoke about the failing moral values in our country and how that those failing moral values are being reflected in the church rather than being rebuked by it!

*2Ti 4:2-4 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

- i. I mentioned modesty and illustrated using what I considered the presidents

daughters wearing a short skirt being a poor example for American teens.

ii. I feared I had offended some folks that were here with short skirts on like those I was describing!

iii. I did not know they were wearing what I was describing **so my intention was to call them out or embarrass them but to do what preachers are to do rebuke biblical inappropriate behavior!**

c. Every Christian is a work in progress Php 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Continuing In The Apostles Doctrines involve the **For the perfecting of the saints**, beginning with their personal growth.

*2Pe 1:5-9 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; (6) And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; (7) And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. (8) For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

- d. Personal maturity and Christ likeness go hand in hand in preparation “for the work of the ministry,”

Another of the basics of the New Testament Church is “Every Member A Minister.”

In the Old Testament there was a Clergy class, the Levites who took care of the spiritual ministry!

In the Church every member is to be trained to do “the work of the ministry,”

Several Christian denominations perhaps the best know is the Catholic Church which in the early 300’s chose to keep the laity at bay by subjugating them to the

Clergy Class with their priests, Cardinals and so on up to the Pope.

The result is an uneducated pew class dependent on a clergy class for their knowledge of the truth.

But that is NOT God's way, his way is a spiritually educated membership in which every member is a trained minister for God.

- e. These educated members then are equipped **for the edifying of the body of Christ:** in other words the reaching of the lost and building of the membership.

It is not the pastor's job as pastor to build the membership; his is to bring the saints into Christ like ministers!

- f. This work of God has a goal; **Till we all come in the unity of the faith,**

Surveys show that the average church member in today's society know little about what the church

they attend stands for and teaches!

The “Mega Church” attendees (I don’t say members because they do not in general believe in it) attendees know much less than the more traditional evangelical churches.

Those with the most knowledge and unity are members of churches like Calvary.

- g. One of the most important things the New Testament Church is to impart is “...the knowledge of the Son of God,”
- h. It is that knowledge that unlocks the greatness of the Christian life;

**2Pe 1:3-4** *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

- i. The ultimate goal of the Apostle’s Doctrine is bring the Christian to maturity; **unto a perfect man, unto**

the measure of the stature  
of the fulness of Christ:

The progress is gaged by  
the progress toward  
Christ-likeness not to what  
other members may have  
obtained! Who Christ is  
and what He is about!

**Conclusion;**

*And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine*