

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of March 2019

A Model Church

Acts 2:42-47

Sunday, March 3, 2019

This passage of scripture describes the early church. It is presented as a model church, but this does not mean that it was perfect. A few chapters further on in the book of Acts, you will find that it was far from perfect. This church had hypocrites, doctrinal errors, and sinfulness just as the church of today, yet it was a model in many important aspects as described in Acts chapter 2. These verses tell what developed in the church and how it functioned in those remarkable days after Pentecost. This description of the church is intended as an example for our church in this 21st century.

This was an inner-city church! This church was a mega church. It was a large church and it had a multiple staffed ministry. It needed the staff because of the 3000 people who were added to the church at Pentecost, making the total member of believers 3,120 (the 120 of chapter 1 plus the additional 3000). The staff began with the twelve Apostles. But when the twelve found that there still weren't enough to do the work, they petition the church for help. Seven deacons were selected which then made it nineteen officers working the ministry at that time. And the success of the church, as we soon discovered, that **all** of the believers (not just the 19), were doing the work of the ministry.

In this lesson, we want to look at what has been said about this model church.

Sunday, March 10, 2019

I. A Learning, Studying Church.

The first phrase says, "they devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching." In other words, this was a learning, studying church. There were a lot of other important things Luke could have said about this church, but the first thing Luke describes is the teaching. He stresses that in these early days, in spite of the great Pentecostal experience, which could have caused them to just focus on the experience itself, the disciples of the early church first and foremost devoted themselves to teaching.

The first mark of a spirit-filled church is that of learning. A spirit-filled church studies – always willing to be taught. What is true of the church is true for individuals as well. If you are a spirit-filled individual, then you will be drawn to the Word of God. There should always be bible study going on in the Church.

Sunday, March 17, 2019

II. Christian Fellowship.

The early church devoted itself to fellowship on many levels. One writer says, “the word fellowship was born on the day of Pentecost.” This is because Christian fellowship means, “common participation in God,” which is what drew the early Christians together.

The Greek word for fellowship is “Koinonia,” which has to do with holding something in common. The fellowship of the church was a common fellowship because of the great spiritual realities the believers shared. Those early Christians participated and were one with God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son, therefore they naturally participated in common-life and shared everything with one another. Fellowship with God and true fellowship with others go hand in hand. If you find yourself out of fellowship with God, you will begin to find yourself out of fellowship with other Christians. If you, however, draw closer to God, you will find yourself drawing closer to other Christians.

In verses 44-45, all the believers were together and had everything in common, selling their possessions and goods they shared what they had with others. So because God had been generous with them, they were determined to be generous with one another.

Sunday, March 24, 2019

III. A Worshipping Church.

There was “the breaking of bread” and “prayer.” “Breaking of bread” signified the communion service, and prayer. Although it is something we can do individually and at different times, in this passage, it gives the idea of the like place in worship – something formal – the gathering together to Worship God.

Not only did the Christians worship in a formal setting but they worshipped informally as well (“they broke bread in their homes”). They didn’t have the edifices we have today, so many of their meetings together were in the home. Whether formal or informal, Worship is important! Christians should come together to Worship.

Sunday, March 31, 2019

IV. A Witnessing, Evangelizing Church.

This church was a witnessing, evangelizing church. Verse 47 says, “and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” This happened because the church was witnessing.

The early church had experienced something wonderful – something transforming – the Resurrection, and because of this experience, they had to share it with others. How could they not share it? They didn’t make the mistake of being silent – They shared the message!

Because of their witness, God saved souls and added them to the church daily. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if every day there were reports of souls being brought into the saving grace of Jesus Christ and added to the family because the church is witnessing? A spirit-filled church is a loving, caring, and sharing church not a self-centered, and self-contained church. A spirit-filled church is wrapped up in the renewing, illuminating and sanctifying agent of whom God himself works through – The HOLY SPIRIT!