

What Matters In The Church

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Acts 2:37-47
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

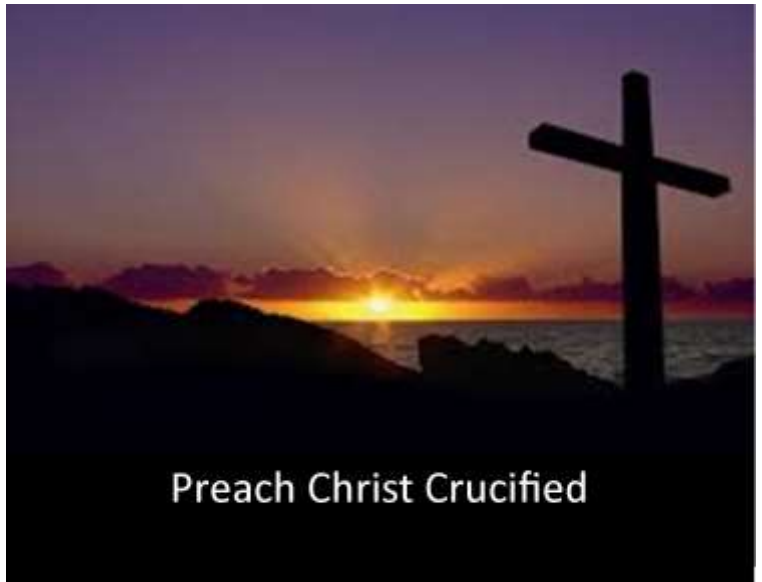
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In the last part of the second chapter of Acts, we see the first gatherings of the early church. In verse 42, there are four things that they are devoted to: “the Apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” This morning we will look at these things, and what the early church focused on as they grew rapidly. We will see how we can reflect the same values that the early church had, and at the same time, reflect the character of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



① EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Acts 2:37-47 (NET)

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were acutely distressed and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "What should we do, brothers?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself." ⁴⁰ With many other words he testified and exhorted them saying, "Save yourselves from this perverse generation!" ⁴¹ So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

⁴² They were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Reverential awe came over everyone, and many wonders and miraculous signs came about by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and held everything in common, ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in this passage that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

What does God MEAN?

8. What do you think it means in verse 44 that they held everything in common?

9. How do you think they gathered together every day and still had time to carry on their life, and their work?

10. In verse 47, what do you think enabled them to have the good will of the people?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)**

Why does this MATTER to me?

11. What does it mean to devote yourself to the apostles teaching? What does that look like today?

12. What does it mean to be devoted to the breaking of bread? What does that look like today?

13. With today's busy life, how can we strive to have the type of fellowship that we see in these verses?

14. How is the attitude seen in these verses a reflection of the character of Christ? How can we reflect that same character?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES