

The _____ of the Church –

I. All of the theology and all of the teaching of the entire Bible is contained and summed up in one thing – the _____.

A. To be nourished by anything besides the _____ is to fall away from _____.

B. The Bible is the revelation of _____ through the _____.

C. Scriptures:

1. Romans 1:15-17 – So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”
2. Philippians 1:27 – Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.
3. 1 Corinthians 9:23 – I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.
4. Cf. 1 Timothy 1:11; 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:14

II. Personal Testimony

III. We have not grasped the glory of the Gospel until we feel _____
_____.

A. Romans 1:14-15 – I am under **obligation** both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, for my part, I am **eager** to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. *For* it is the power of God unto salvation...

B. Luke 19:10 – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
1. Jesus’ purpose and goal in coming to this earth was “_____.”
2. Our responsibility is to joyfully follow His example by _____.

C. The example of the church in Acts.

1. Scriptures

a. Acts 8:1, 4-5 – On that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.

b. Acts 11:19-21 – So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

2. We should not have a _____ that our experience and practice of evangelism doesn’t measure up to everything that we see in Acts and the early church.

3. The main point is that the early church was _____ (with JOY)!

IV. The divinely appointed _____ of the church is _____.

- A. Acts 5:27-29 – The high priest questioned (the apostles), saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”
- B. Luke 24:46-48 – And [Jesus] said to [His disciples], “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”
- C. Matthew 28:18-20 – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- D. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 – Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave **us** the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to **us** the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- E. Acts 1:8 – You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.
- F. Matthew 9:35-38 – Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

G. Matthew 16:18 – I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

V. Coming up...

A. A *missional* mindset – means that we will have an _____ focus – with our eyes always fixed on the _____ that is waiting to be _____.

B. Our _____ and our _____ in evangelism will always flow directly from our _____ of the Gospel.

C. _____ and _____ in evangelism will also come when we have grasped the rich _____ of the Gospel.

D. Let us discover the Gospel afresh so that we might be better equipped to _____ to others!

Teaching our Children

Review, discuss, and reflect on the Scriptures in the handout (especially starting from III). Refer to the notes from the handout as appropriate.