

Acts 2:42-47

If you remember back in January, we spent a Sunday morning fleshing out this text as we sought to paint a picture of where First Baptist needs to focus if we are to flourish in the future. I wanted to revisit this text this morning to remind you of 7 characteristics of that early church that we are seeking to emulate. After we spend some time being reminded of where we are going, I want to draw it all together and hopefully keep us from getting overwhelmed.

#### READ/PRAY

As we are reminded of the 7 characteristics of that early church this morning, you may feel overwhelmed. You might feel like I am forcing you to drink from a Fire hose. Hang on until the end, and I think I can simplify this considerably.

Until then, let me remind you of the 7 characteristics of that early church that we should seek to emulate.

#### **I. Maturing in the Word v42a**

2 Tim 3:16-17 *16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

We will begin Malachi next week.

#### **II. Meaningful Fellowship v42b, 46**

Hebrews 10:23-25 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

1. The words “one another” are used 151 times in the Bible...there is reason for that!
2. 5th Sunday fellowship meal and communion. April 29

#### **III. Making Supplication v42c**

*At the judgement seat the most embarrassing thing the believer will face will be the smallness of his praying.* Ravenhill

1. 8:30 / 11 a.m. Sunday prayer—we are going to be praying about a lay-leader
2. Monday night group
3. Wednesday Prayer Meeting
4. Prayer Room

Let prayer permeate EVERY part of the church...not just the prayer room.

*Let the fires go out in the boiler room of the church and the place will still look smart and clean, but it will be cold. The Prayer Room is the boiler room for its spiritual life.* Ravenhill

#### **IV. Miracles Performed v43**

Matthew 25:31-46

## V. Ministry to the Body v44-45

Acts 4:32-35

Not just pastors or deacons, but everyone!

## VI. Magnifying God v47

John 4:23-24 *But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

1. True Worship is in spirit...songs that get our emotions going
2. True worship is in truth...hymns are saturated with truth.
3. Not either or, but both...truth AND spirit!

Worship is a lifestyle, done daily, being a living sacrifice...but what I am referring to here, is praising God...corporate worship.

1. God Centered
2. Christ Exalting
3. Biblically Sound
4. Consistently Excellent worship

## VII. Missions, Disciple Making and Evangelism v47

Acts 1:8

1. Summer: The Insanity of God movie and the Insanity of Obedience on Wednesdays and "RISK" series on Sundays
2. Are we going to be a landing strip or are we going to be a launching pad?

**Conclusion:** Draw the Design to tie it all together.



**Application Questions:**

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group.
3. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
4. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will \_\_\_\_\_"