

Intro:

READ WLC 154.

Main Point of Text: The daily, diligent Gospel life of the Church is what God blesses to preserve the lives of Christians.

Sermon Point: *Persevere by Sainly Communion.*

Move 1: Eat and drink what will keep you alive.

LC: “The ... ordinary means ... are all his ordinances ... whereby Christ communicates to his church the benefits of his mediation ... all which are made effectual ... for their salvation.”: Mt. 28:19-20: ... *teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you* ...

Move 2: And go to where the real food and drink are supplied.

LC: “especially the word, sacraments, and prayer” (WLC 155-196): Acts 2:42, 46-47:

- Christians’ natural course of life was devotion to doctrine (Word), breaking of bread (Lord’s Supper), and prayer (also baptism, vs. 41). Also, “praising God” singing (Col. 3:16/Eph. 5:19).
- Community activity in covenant context. Corporate worship. 1 Cor. 12: “one body” needs members:
 - Vs. 47: “whole of the people”. Lord added to church (Ecclesia, assembly, like Qahal in OT).
 - Vs. 46, in temple, house to house, w/ “simplicity of heart”: sincerity, singleness --as *one*. Jn. 17
 - Vs. 42: “fellowship” (koinonia: see 1 Cor. 10:16). Vs. 46: “with one accord”

LC: “The ... outward means ... all which are made effectual to the *elect* for *their* salvation”: Invisible Church is fed within Visible Church. Rom. 9:6: *they are not all Israel, which are of Israel*; IC is *in* VC. WCF 25:2. 1 Cor. 12. John 15:5. Ex. 20:24. Heb. 10:25. Ps. 133:1.

Conclusion:

Acts 2:42, 47: “continuing steadfastly” literally busily engaged, persevering. His means of the means.

Persevere by Sainly Communion.