

Real Change

Acts 2:42-47

Introduction: The closing verses of Acts 2 tell us that individual change translated into corporate change and became a mark of distinction for the people of God - Christians.

Acts 2:42-47 - Luke describes these believers by the phrase; "and they devoted themselves to" (Acts 2:42).

Acts 2:42 - Doctrine

Precept: What the local Church teaches is the essence of Church health. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:2). Understanding scripture grows our faith and expands our great salvation.

Acts 2:42 - Fellowship - Living out the 'one-another commands' of scripture (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Precept: There is nothing in the Christian life that is not relational; first with God/Jesus Christ and daily with others.

Acts 2:42 - Breaking of bread - This is at least "pot-lucks" and could have become part of the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

Acts 2:42 - Prayer - This is fellowship with God and comes in two forms; individual and corporate. It is both listening and speaking.

Acts 2:43-47 - Luke describes four collective results of their devotion: awe & miracles, commonness, faithfulness and the blessing of God--more believers.

Acts 2:43 - Soul fear - A kind of fear literally came on every soul. The apostles had a 'corner' on this kind of activity but they never used it for personal gain; rather it was used to bless people.

Acts 2:43 - Apostolic signs and marvels

Acts 2:44-45 - Commonness - This commonness was demonstrated in two ways: first, they came together often, in some cases they lived together and second, they shared things in common. This response to needs came from their hearts.

Acts 2:46-47a - With one mind/faithful - This phrase is in the 'emphatic position' and indicates that what these new believers did was consistent and faithful; they were committed to this 'relational routine', every day.

Conclusion: The true sign of a move of God is not signs and miracles; rather it is first a true and lasting change in the heart. The only true evidence of salvation is permanent change from the inside out. (Matthew 7:21-23)

What these believers devoted themselves to is not different for the 21st century Church—it is the same, devotion to doctrine rooted in the Word of God; fellowship of all kinds; and prayer. This will lead to generosity and hospitality that will meet many needs.

The first two chapters of Acts focus on three themes: the way of salvation; the work of the Holy Spirit and the new Christian way. Therefore coming into the family of God is personally and corporately transforming.