

Sermon Notes by Bill Bigoss
Pastor Zach Villafuerte: Acts 2:42
3/1/2026

Studying rich history is very important. Today we look at the history of the early church. The early church began at Pentecost, 50 days after passover and the first day of Shavuot, the harvest festival. Jesus on Pentecost sent the Holy Spirit as promised. About 3000 people came to the Lord overnight from the 120 people who initially received the Holy Spirit.

Although the Church today is very different from the early church, we can learn a great deal about how those Christians related to each other and to those outside the church.

Acts 2:42 NASB

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

"Devoted" - the greek word means to attend to constantly, to persist or persevere, to continue steadfastly, to wait upon.

Jesus knew what the early church would be facing.

Jesus informed the apostles about the external aspects of relationships.

John 15:18-20 NASB

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. [19] If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. [20] Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Jesus also gave a command about the internal aspects of relationships.

John 13:34-35 NASB

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Michael Phelps - 82 total medals, including the 28 from the Olympics. I'm sure it didn't feel good preparing for all this. We need to show the same devotion to the church as Michael Phelps demonstrated that was so critical for his career.

The early church was continually and actively devoting themselves to these 4 things (Acts 2:42):

The Apostles Teaching

New believers needed to learn. The word for teaching means instruction. With 3000 overnight converts there was no time for planning, and there was no available curriculum. They were the curriculum. The Apostles needed patience and devoted themselves to teaching.

Today we need to come together in church to learn Scripture in worship and Bible studies. There are small groups that you can join or you can start one. We have Sunday school between our 2 services. We encourage meeting with one another.

Hebrews 10:22-25 NASB

let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. [23] 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.

Today we also need to study the Bible on our own . At AWANA (Approved workmen are not ashamed) we study the Bible together. Are you a student of the Bible? One of the most powerful ways God communicates with His children is through His Word in Scripture. Don't just read it, study it. We need to devote ourselves to the Apostles' teaching. Study it together too.

The Fellowship

The Greek word is Koinonia, which means Love, Faith, Intimacy, Sharing, Common bond, Community, Commonality, Contribution, Partnership, Encouragement, Participation, and contact.

It carries the idea of perseverance and growing relationships. As God's people we are meant to be different but share in the common mission in Christ that goes deeper than our differences of opinion.

We are not meant to live our Christian life in a bubble. Yes we are meant to live our personal lives as Christians, but we also need to live life together with each other and with the world around us.

The Breaking of Bread

Communion or meals? It's both. Jesus instructed the apostles to celebrate communion.

Paul addresses divisions in the church

1 Corinthians 11:18,20-22 NASB

For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. [20] Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, [21] for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. [22] What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

1 Corinthians 11:27,33-34 NASB

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. [33] So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. [34] If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

Matthew 5:23-24 NASB - First be reconciled to your brother before presenting your offering.

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

God did not call us out to live in a performative way but in a transformative way.

Open up our homes to one another. This is such a big thing. Share a meal. It's the best way to bring people together. We have dinner for 8, Missions lunches, family night on the 1st Sunday of the month and more.

The Prayers

The article "the" means they had specific prayers. We need prayer. We need corporate prayer.

We need to pray with each other and for each other. Corporate prayer is important. Even if you struggle to pray out loud with people, just do it. We need to commune with God. Our Elders pray at every meeting for the Church, for the world, for Church members who are in need etc.

The early church has so much to teach us. Remember from whence we came. History is very important. Even with our differences today (technology, internet etc...) we can learn devotion from the early church.