

Acts 2:40-47 - Earliest Church Life - 12/18/2022

Review: 3000 cut to the heart / Peter urged: Repent & be Baptized

Save yourselves from this crooked generation (Matt 23:35-36, 24:34)

Added that day 3000 souls: added to what? = to the Church (Matt 16:18)

Overview Description of earliest essential church life

Acts as template for the Gospel / Great Commission / Church life

Acts 2:42-47 = snapshot of earliest church life (what isn't there & what is)

What isn't there: facility or programs

What is there?

Apostles teaching: Matthew 28:20 / Epistles

Fellowship:

Breaking of bread: (1 Corinthians 11:20-21)

Prayer:

7 repeated things (2:43-47 - Imperfect tense = dramatic emphasis)

Feeling Awe

Apostolic signs and wonders being done

Selling possessions & belongings

Distributing the proceeds to all

As any among them were needing

Receiving their food with glad & generous hearts

The Lord adding to their number day by day

All things in common (compare Acts 4:32-35)

Was the early church a Socialist institution?

Acts 5:1-4

Acts 2:5-11

As any had need

Any = of the church

Equality encouraged not imposed (2 Corinthians 8:1-15)

Compelled by Agape

Radical expression of Spirit filled generosity in action

Two More Details

Day by day attending the temple together (Acts 3:11, 5:12)

Praising God & having favor with all the people

Application For Today:

Compare: your devotion to theirs for self-examination and prayer

Evaluate: your blessings as needs arise in the church family