

Acts 2:42-47

Last week we laid the foundation of the sufficiency of Scripture.

1. The grand enemy of the sufficiency of Scripture is pragmatism.
2. When we are pragmatists instead of biblicists, in our theology and methodology we have no solid foundation to build upon (it constantly shifts with “whatever is working”)...and without a solid foundation, the materials that make up the NT church won’t stand upright or stand.

We must reject the draw of pragmatism and embrace the sufficiency of Scripture. If we are going to build on the solid foundation of the sufficiency to Scripture...

1. We need to renounce the disgraceful ways of the world and build the church on Jesus Christ!
2. We must refuse craftiness and the temptation to compromise God’s Word for “success”
3. We must rely on the power of God alone that comes through the preaching and living of the truth.

With that foundation laid, we want to erect the structure.

1. Nothing new.
2. But I want us to think about it corporately instead of individually
3. What should it look like as we gather on Sunday as a New Testament Church built on the sufficiency of Scripture?

I. The Scriptures must be central v42a

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching

1. We have called this “maturing in the word.”
2. The early church was devoted to the teaching of the disciples...what would become the NT
3. We have discussed what this looks like for the individual, but what does this look like for us corporately?

1 Tim 4:13-16 Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. 14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. 15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. 16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you..

1. Reading the Scriptures in worship
2. Exhort and teaching the Scriptures in worship

II. Fellowship is essential v42b, 46

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

The Scriptures were not all that they devoted themselves to.

1. We have called this meaningful fellowship.
2. The early church devoted themselves to fellowship...to each other and they enjoyed that fellowship over meals in their homes.
 - a. We have discussed how this could look for we as individuals.
 - b. Hebrews 13:1-2 *Let love of the brethren continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.*
 - c. Something is missing in the Christian life, the Christian church, and the process of discipling without hospitality... open doors and thus open lives.
4. But what can this look like in our context as a corporate body?
 - a. One of the benefits of one service at 10 a.m.
 - b. After church open your home...or go out with friends and strangers.
 - c. Be intentional to include those who are new and strangers

III. Prayer is more than a transition v42c

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

1. The Acts 2 church was devoting themselves to prayer and the focus was still there decades later. We called this making supplication.
2. What does this look like for us today? Prayer becomes more than a transition.
3. 1 Tim 2:1-8 *First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. 7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.*

IV. Testimony v43

43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

1. We have called this miracles performed, but what does this look like corporately?
2. There is a lack of testimony in our church
 - a. Many, if not most of us have no clue what is happening in, and through, the people

- that gather here each week.
 - b. We need to have a way to share what God is doing in us and through us
 - c. We need to have a way to hear what God is doing in others and through others
- 3. This is going to change now...
 - a. Before we were two churches and neither one knew much of anything about what was happening in the other.
 - b. Before we were under a time crunch because we had to finish before SS and then by noon!
 - c. We wouldn't know if there was a miracle because we are in and out like cattle through a chute. ...now we can have time to share
- 4. Now we want to include reports of what God is doing in and through you personally, as d-groups, Sunday school classes, or circles of influence.
 - a. We can be the miracle as individuals
 - b. And then celebrate those positives as a church

V. Ministry to the Body v44-46

44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

Care for the brethren is critical in the Scriptures

1. 1 Peter 1:22 *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,*
2. 1 Peter 2:17 *Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.*
3. 1 Peter 3:8 *To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted*
4. 1 Peter 4:8 *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*
5. There are roughly 100 “one another” verses in the New Testament...it is full!
 - a. The early church very practically loved one another as we see in Acts 2
 - b. Acts 4:32-35 *And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. 34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales 35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.*

John 13:34-35 *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.*

VI. God Centered worship v47

47 praising God and having favor with all the people.

1. We have called this magnifying God
 - a. As individuals it looks like being a living sacrifice

b. Refusing to be conformed to this world, but being transformed as individuals

2. But what does this look like corporately? It looks like worship in Spirit and in Truth

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 corporately in Spirit and in Truth

1. God Centered lyrics with heartfelt emotion
2. Christ Exalting lyrics with passion
3. Biblically Sound lyrics with feeling

VII. Evangelism, Disciple Making, and Missions

v47b

And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1. The Lord was adding to their number...not because they were building a church that appealed to the lost
2. The Lord was adding to their number because they were going out to the lost, winning them to the Lord, and then bringing them into the body

What does this look like for the individual?

1. Locally
 - a. It looks like you looking for, creating, and taking opportunities to share and disciple with people who do not yet know Christ.
 - b. It looks like you being involved in a discipleship group that means to include and expand
2. Globally
 - a. It looks like you praying for the nations
 - b. It looks like you giving generously and sacrificially to get the gospel there
 - c. And going as frequently and as far away as you can.

What does this look like for us corporately.

1. It looks like our church adopting evangelism, discipling, and missions as our bullseye so that all that we are and do feeds the mission.
2. We have introduced and encouraged you to consider the 3 bullseye books
3. It looks like corporately working together to pray, to give, to go...and to send
 - a. To locate those in our congregation who sense a calling to go to the ends of the earth
 - b. And then to get behind them to support them and help them get there and stay there.

Introduce Brett

Don't you look forward to the day that our Sundays are characterized by Scripture, strategic fellowship, intentional prayer, testimonies, ministry, worship in spirit and in truth, and the mission? Let's do what it takes to be more of a NT church than ever before.