

**Acts 2:42; Lord's Day 21**  
**THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

- I. A Biblical concept.
  - A. The true Church “continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42).
    - 1. This refers to the teachings of the Apostles about the person and work of Jesus Christ.
    - 2. This is a chief characteristic of the congregation to which the Lord added daily the ones He was saving (47).
  - B. Thus we can see that the church is “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets” (Eph. 2:20).
    - 1. Figure of the construction of a building: the church’s foundation consists of the “apostles and prophets.”
    - 2. It is the teachings of the apostles and N.T. prophets (not their persons) which are foundational for the Christian faith.
  - C. The true church is described as “the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Tim. 3:15).
    - 1. The visible church was instituted for the sake of the truth, not the truth for the sake of the church.
    - 2. The object for which the church exists on earth is to declare and uphold the truth.
- II. The implications.
  - A. We must preserve the Word of God as the container of the apostolic teachings.
  - B. And it is fundamental that the church of Christ today consciously view the creeds as containing the apostolic teachings.
  - C. It is fundamental that the church of Christ today consciously stand related to the church of yesterday.
  - D. The local congregation in Jerusalem which grew was the one which maintained apostolic teachings (Acts 2:42-47).
  - E. The determination of which local congregation I join myself to is that one which continues in the apostles’ teachings/truth.
  - F. Personal implications.