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## Studies in Acts

### “Singlemindedness”

[Acts 2:46-47]

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- Acts 2:46B - “singleness of heart” KJV - [The Corporate Aspect]:
- D. M. L-J - “This most important statement means, first and foremost, that these Jerusalem Christians were all of one mind, that they were experiencing a wonderful unity, ‘singleness of heart!’”
- Those first Christians had very different personalities and temperaments. They had different backgrounds and some spoke different languages, yet they were all melted together into this amazing unity!
- Rev. 5:9; 7:9; & 14:6 describe the church of Christ as consisting of people from every tribe, nation, people and language! - And yet they all share this extraordinary bond of unity in Christ!
- Col. 3:11 - “*Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*”

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- This is a picture of what the world will be like when Christ comes back to reign!
- Isaiah 48:18 indicates that where the Kingdom of God rules, there is “*peace like a river*” and “*righteousness like the waves of the sea.*”
- Lloyd-Jones says: “What we see here in Acts in embryo will someday be worldwide.”

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#### Acts 2:46B - “Singleness of heart” KJV - [The Individual Aspect]:

- \* Matt. 6:22-23 is a classic passage which alludes to this element of Biblical Christianity:
- “*The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*” [KJV “... the whole body will be full of darkness.”]
- cf. James 1:8 - Men and women out side of Christ, people who do not have the life of God in them, have double vision! They lack this singleheartedness which characterized the first Christians.
- James said such a person: “... is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.”

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- Authentic Christianity gets rid of the complications which disrupt the fundamental simplicity God wants us to enjoy in our lives. It marginalizes and gets rid of the

distractions which rob us of singleheartedness! This can be seen in history:

- **Genesis 3 - When Adam and Eve lived as they were supposed to live, life was delightfully simple! It was “paradise!”**
- **We can also think of the history of the church!**

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**Human beings without the life of God in them are a bundle of contradictions:**

- The underlying problem has to do with warring factions within them! [i.e. There is a division, a duality that sin causes within us.]

Romans 7:21-25 refers to this division within:

- *“So I find this law at work; When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature [i.e. “flesh”] a slave to the law of sin.”*

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- This ‘individual’ aspect of the singleheartedness which is produced by the Gospel is ultimately the key to the solution of mankind’s corporate problems!
- The world will never succeed in its attempts to solve its problems apart from Christ!
- Romans 13:1 says *“The powers that be are ordained by God.”* However, God never ordained such powers to solve the problem! They only exist to keep the problem within limits. And often, they cannot even do that successfully!
- The problem is the world’s failure to recognize the fundamental importance of the soul!

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- The story of Martha and Mary illustrates the important point here  
Luke 10:38-42
- *“‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”* [verse 41]
- Martha was trying to serve Jesus, [and that’s not a bad thing in itself]. But Jesus made it very clear that nothing is more important than that we should listen to what He has to say!

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- **And what is it that Jesus has to say?**
- Mark 8:36 - *“What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”*
- Matt. 7:13 *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*
- Matt. 18:3 - *“... I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

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- **The difference between the Christian and others in the world is that others are still searching. The Christian, on the other hand, has found the answer in the person of Jesus Christ!**

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- Christians have found the answer and it is in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- They know that He is the Son of God!
- They know that He is the only one who can bring us to God.
- They know that He is the source of information concerning our origin, the reason for our existence and our future destiny! He is the explanation for life itself!
- cf. I Jn. 1:1-5
- cf. Jn. 1: 1-5, 9-10, & 14
- Jn. 8:12 *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

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- **This knowledge then becomes the central, controlling principle in the Christian’s entire outlook on life!**
- Augustine said: *“Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.”*
- Eccl. 3:11 [RV] says: *“God has put eternity in the heart of man.”* Genesis 1:27 says God created man in His own image!

