

## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

### INTRODUCTION

1. Sunday morning we discussed the various purposes of the N.T. Church.

Worship, Ministry, Evangelism, Fellowship, Discipleship

2. There have always been an elect people of God in all ages. God chose the elect before the foundation of the world. And so, we stand in no better position than Adam and Abraham and Moses and all the O.T. saints in terms of our eternal justification and our heavenly standing.

3. But there is a difference in terms of the method or religious worship. Obviously, there was a method of worship under the Jewish economy which no longer applies. There was a temple, there were sacrifices, there were all kinds of feasts and services. You had to go to Jerusalem every year for various reasons. But something major happened which put an end to that type of worship. Jesus came. He fulfilled the law. He came as the fulfillment of all the types. And the old way of worship expired. That old way of worship under the Mosaic law was only a temporary measure. (Gal. 3:19)

4. When Jesus came, a new form of worship was established which is different from that old form in the O.T.

Universal and not local

Characterized by an indwelling of the Holy Spirit

The day of worship changed from the Sabbath day, to the first day of the week.

All of the religious prefigurements of Christ were abolished and were replaced by two sacraments which look back on the work of Christ – Breaking bread and baptism.

5. Jesus, during his earthly ministry, had taught the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come upon them.

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

John 16:7

6. After his resurrection, but before his ascension, he gave in some measure the Holy Spirit to the disciples. (John 20:20-22)

7. He commanded the disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father. (Acts 1:4)

8. This promise was the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:5, 8)

9. The feast of Pentecost was at hand. (Acts 2:1)

It was once a year feast.  
It was on the first day of the week.

10. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages other than their native language. (Acts 2:4)

11. This caused a great stir and a crowd began gathering and every one heard the disciples speak in his own language. (v.6)

12. The disciples were preaching the wonderful works of God. (v. 11)

All that God had done in Old Testament times.  
All that Jesus had done while on the earth.  
The wonderful work of redemption.

13. Peter preached a sermon. (2:14-36)

14. People were pricked in their hearts and 3,000 were saved.

This is a story of the early church. This is the church in its infancy. This is the first New Testament church. This is the first collection of believers banded together. This is the church in its innocence before any corruptions have crept in, before any false doctrines, before any traditions of men have taken hold.

And we want to take a look at this church in verses 42-47.

I. They were diligent in attending the preaching of the Word.

A. The frequency and diligence with which they attended preaching.

*They continued.*

This suggests that they continually came to hear the preaching. Day after day they came. It appears that they came daily. (v.46)

They continued diligently.

*They continued steadfastly.*

They would not be detoured. They would not let other lesser obligations distract them. They would not let laziness or apathy keep them away.

B. The preaching that was attended.

It was the preaching of the apostles.

And the apostles, next to Christ himself, were the most authoritative of all preachers.

1. They were eyewitnesses of all that Christ did.
2. They were specially gifted by the Holy Spirit. (John 20:20-22)
3. Their ministry was confirmed by wonders and miracles.
4. Their teaching is the foundation of the church. (Eph.2:20)

No wonder these people continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. How would you like to be taught day after day by Peter and James and John? How would you like to ask them questions? John stood right there at the foot of the cross and watched as Jesus died for the sins of his people. How would you like to have a few minutes with these men?

Note: There are no apostles left today. Peter and James and John and Matthew, Mark and Luke and Bartholomew and Paul and Barnabas are all passed away. We can't go hear them preach anymore. If they were still here, I'm sure they could rent out the Pyramid and many of us would go hear the apostles preach. And we would continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. But they're gone. But they left us a legacy. They left us a legacy that is every bit as authoritative as their own words. They left us, the Word of God.

And our duty as a church is to give attendance to the preaching of the Word of God. It is the apostles' doctrine in its finished form – in its completion.

Now when they attended preaching, they were privileged to get Peter and the other apostles. When we attend preaching, we hear men who are not gifted as apostles. But God has gifted men for the preaching of the Word. (Eph.4:12)

And it is a glorious gift to the church whenever God gives pastors and teachers to assist in the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.

And, it is our duty to continue steadfastly in the Word of God, just as this early church did.

II. They continued in fellowship. (v.42)

A. They met daily in the temple. (v.46) This was the normal place for congregating for religious service under the Jewish system. There were places for group meetings there and places for public discourse. And they met in the temple daily where they surely must have heard preaching and where they had discussions among themselves about what all this meant.

But, when the temple was closed,

B. They met in their own houses. (v.46)

1. They continued in their fellowship with one another.
2. They ate together. (This may have been simply meals or may have been the exercise of the sacrament of communion.)

Notes:

- They were much together. And this would imply,
- There was much affection among one another.

They were together (v.44)

They shared with one another. (v.45)

They were in one accord. (v.46)

And this is a most natural condition of Christians. After all we are to abstain from the much of the things of this world. Our conversation is not of this world. And so, we must seek out fellowship with those who are not of this world.

And here we are, on Wednesday night, meeting with people that we like to be with, people who are like minded.

You have heard the expression, “birds of a feather, stick together?” That’s us.

And that’s what this group of early Christians did. They withdrew from the world and from the enemy and from those who would kill them, and they met together daily.

Note in v. 42: They continued in the Word of God and in fellowship.  
But, they also engaged in other forms of worship,

III. They engaged in the sacrament of breaking of bread. They kept up a memorial of the death of Christ by observing communion and they apparently kept it often. And remember this was the command of Christ, when he told the disciples,

*This is my body which is given to you: this do in remembrance of me.*

Luke 22:19

And so, this very first collection of believers obeyed Christ and observed the breaking of bread as a communion and a remembrance of Him. And they did it often. And this ordinance has been transmitted to the church down through the ages even to us and so we observe the Lord’s Supper periodically to remember his death.

But they did more than just break bread,

IV. They engaged in prayers.

And it appears that prayers are a very important part of worship because they continued steadfastly in them.

V. They engaged in praising God.

Note the attitude of the believers:

1. Fear. They feared God. This is a healthy emotion. The Bible says fear him who can destroy both the body and the soul. He is our master and we are his subjects. And it is the duty of subjects to have a healthy fear. Though we know he loves us, we also know his rod of discipline can be severe. And so, we fear lest we displease him and become subject to his reproof.

2. One accord. This should be our attitude with one another in serving such a great God. What else in this world would divide us when we are united in Him? You may be a Tennessee fan and I may be a Memphis fan, but what is that compared to our union in Christ? And they met in one accord. Nothing else in life seemed of significance to them.

3. They ate their meat in gladness. There was a joy that permeated their fellowship. Though they may have had earthly cares, those cares faded away in contemplation of the great salvation they had in Christ.

4. They ate their meat in singleness of heart. They were united in a single-minded purpose and that was to worship Christ and to serve Him. Single-minded people can accomplish great things. They don't get distracted by other interests. They put their hands on the plow and their eyes on the row and they plow their field straight. But the Bible says,

*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*  
James 1:8