**Message Outline**




**DEVOTION TO THE WORD OF GOD**
**Acts 2:42-47**

## Introduction

"What do we need to do as a church so that we can continue to grow?"

## The Birth of the First Church (Acts 2:36-41)

**36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."**

**37 When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"**

**38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!" 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.**

- With the coming and mighty work of the Holy, the gospel message was preached.
- People were convicted of their sins.
- They repented from their old way of religion and tradition and were baptized.
- From 120 members, in one day, their number went up to 3,120 members.

**Main Text: Acts 2:42-47**

**42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.**

**43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.**

**Definition of "Devote"**

To devote is Proskartereō in Greek.

- to persist in adherence to a thing.
- to remain constantly in a place.

(https://www.greekbible.com/)

When you are devoted to a person or something, it means that you are constantly engaged in the life of that person or in that something…it means that you are continuously steadfast…totally committed to that person or something.

*Illustration: A Layman's Devotion*

**The Essentials of a Growing Church**

We, members of TBC as a church, must devote ourselves to the same essentials: apostles' teaching…fellowship…breaking of bread…prayer…giving or ministering to one another…praising God or worship…and sharing the gospel or evangelism - *"the Lord added to their number those who were being saved"*.

In this message, we will only cover the first essential - apostles' teaching. In my next messages, after a few months, if the Lord's will, we will look at the remaining essentials.

1. **We Must Devote Ourselves to the Word of God.**

**Definition of "Apostles' Teaching"**

Apostles' teaching is *didachē* in Greek.

- instruction, the giving of instruction, teaching, doctrine. (https://www.greekbible.com)

- The apostles were the twelve men who were called and set apart by Jesus  to spend time with him during his ministry.
- The apostles taught the new believers about Jesus and his teachings. They also most likely taught from the Old Testament.
- At that time, the New Testament had not yet been written. It was being composed and developed as God through the Holy Spirit was working in the hearts of the apostles.
- For us, our devotion must be to the entire Bible, the Word of God.

**16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 CSB)**

<u>The Authorship of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16a)</u>
"All Scripture is inspired by God…" This means that the Bible came from the breath of God.

Because God is holy and perfect, we believe that the Bible is both "incapable of error (infallible)" and "free from error (inerrant)".

**20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:20-21 NASB)**

<u>The Applicability of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16b)</u>

- Teaching…explaining God's will and purposes for our lives.
- Rebuking…showing us what is wrong in our lives.
- Correcting…helping us to change our wrong attitude and behavior.
- Training in righteousness…giving us right instruction for right living.

<u>The Aim of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:17)</u>

- Completion…Every believer, every member of TBC should be in the process of being complete, of being mature.
- Equipped…fully supplied with what we need to serve God by doing good works.

**Ways to Devote Oneself to the Word of God**

1. Commit to the truth that the Bible is the very Word of God.
2. Commit to reading and studying the Bible everyday.

3. Commit to applying whatever you learn from your study of the Bible.

**“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” (James 1:22 NLT)**

Personal Examples of Devotion to the Word of God

***“ 18 Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. 19 Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:18-20 CSB)***

***“13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 But John tried to stop him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?” 15 Jesus answered him, “Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John allowed him to be baptized.” (Matthew 3:13-15 CSB)***

***“Does the Lord take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than***

***the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22 CSB)..."In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did whatever seemed right to him." (Judges 21:25 CSB)***

**Conclusion**

**"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8 NASB)**

Let's pray!

Jo Kaminaga (Joel)
Tokyo Baptist Church
February 24 & 25, 2024

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