**SERMON NOTES**

**To The Ends of the Earth**

**A Sermon Series Through the Book of Acts**

**“The Local Church: Where the Gospel is Made Visible”**

**Acts 2: 41 - 47**

**In our text this morning we see the characteristics of what a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ biblical church – made up of healthy biblical Christians – should look like, what its priorities should be, and the amazing ways God uses that type of church.**

**We cannot control how people will respond to the gospel message - their response is a work that God does through the Holy Spirit. We must simply be faithful to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and trust God with the results.**

**When someone is saved and baptized, they are saved and baptized not only into Jesus but also into a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (a church) *“there were added that day about three thousand souls”.***

**An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is something given only to a local church’s authority and one of the things that make a church, a church (baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the two ordinances of our faith).**

**Baptism also serves to make the invisible work of the gospel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**God has commanded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that we might have a way to publicly identify with Jesus and His people. It is the sign and symbol that marks off those saved by God and those who have yet to be.**

**Baptism is both an individual and corporate act. It is an individual who is baptized but it is both by a local \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and into a local church that someone is baptized.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Christ’s people follows logically your commitment to Christ. The Bible assumes and expects that those who are committed to Jesus will be also committed to His people.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ those who are saved here in Acts 2 are brought into a faith family so that they might be grown and nurtured in the faith and at the same time help grow and nurture others. This is the way God has designed it for every believer.**

**The most powerful weapon in the hands of the Lord for the building of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ is a healthy church.**

**The local church not only is God’s design and mechanism for a believer’s growth and sanctification but also it’s His means to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a lost world.**

**There are no perfect churches but all churches should be pursuing health and seeking to grow in obedience to what God calls us to in His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The believers here in the local church at Jerusalem were devoted first and foremost to the apostles’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is the first and primary characteristic of a healthy church.**

**The apostles’ teaching then would be what we have today as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: the Old Testament, Jesus’ teachings, and what would later become the formation of the New Testament letters and books.**

**A local church should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to all that the Bible teaches.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ builds His church by His Word.**

**An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christian prioritizes the Lord’s Day gathering (Hebrews 10: 24-25).**

**As \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we must individually and corporately be devoted to the Word.**

**The word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ here is the Greek word κοινωνία. It speaks of commonality, a partnership, a giving to and sharing with others.**

**These early believers here in this local Jerusalem church were devoted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They really believed and understood that in Christ they were one body.**

**This church willing gave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for one another. That is the true heart of genuine Christian fellowship.**

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to be observed only in the context of the gathered church.**

**The church here at Jerusalem shows us that dedication to right practice of what God has instituted (the ordinances) is crucial to the health of a local church.**

**A local church’s dedication to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is fundamental to its health.**

**Prayer connects us to God and expresses our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and need for Him.**

**A healthy church is a light to the world. A healthy church will be driven and empowered to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus, to go and tell others near and far of the good news of salvation.**

**If we are about the Word, uncompromisingly dedicated to it, dedicated to one another, to this gathering, to prayer, to sharing the gospel – we may not be the largest church - but we will be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the Lord will continue to do His work among us, adding to those who are being saved. May it be so!**

Blanks: healthy; share; people; ordinance; visible; baptism; church; Commitment; Immediately; kingdom; save; Word; teaching; Bible; devoted; God; obedient; believers; fellowship; one another; sacrificially; Lord’s Supper; prayer; dependence; mission; light;

***Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching – 1 Timothy 4:13***

Congregational Scripture Reading – Matthew 5: 14 - 16

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.