

Peter: Building Christ's Church
BUILDING CHRIST'S CHURCH

Monday, October 26

Reading: Acts 2

Acts 2:41-47 *Those who accepted [Peter's] message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

The book of Acts details the birth and growth of the early church and Peter plays a major role in the first 12 chapters. Peter takes the leadership in the upper room when they appoint a replacement for Judas. Peter preaches the first Christian sermon on Pentecost that gives birth to the church. It is Peter who is the spokesman and leader before both friends and enemies. It is Peter who first opens the door for Gentiles to enter the church. The apostle took Jesus' words to heart when He instructed Peter to "Feed My sheep."

As we follow Peter through these early years of the church, we can learn valuable lessons about how the church family is to operate, how we as Christ's Church are to love and reach out to the lost, and how God can use us despite our past, despite our flaws, despite our doubts to further His kingdom and His glory.

LESSON ONE: The end of Acts 2 gives us a brief description of the early church in action. List the things the believers did in these verses. How is your church doing these things? How are you involved in these things?

LESSON TWO: God has called every believer to be a part of building His church. He has given us gifts and abilities that should be used to reach others with the gospel and help them grow in their faith. What part are you playing in building Christ's church?