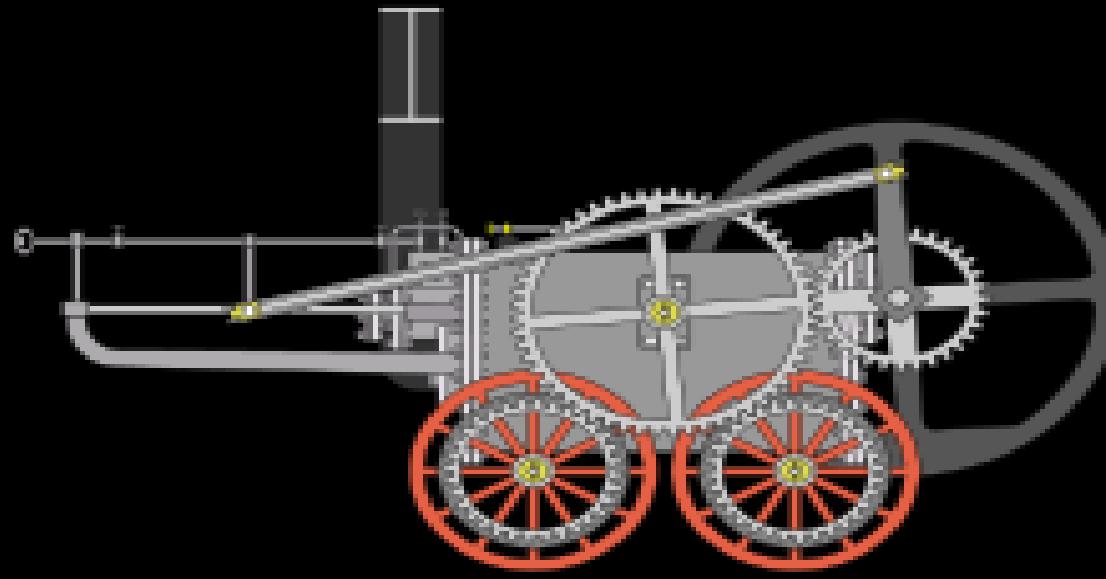


Acts 2:40-47

5 Applications For Accomplishing The Kingdom Purposes Of The Church

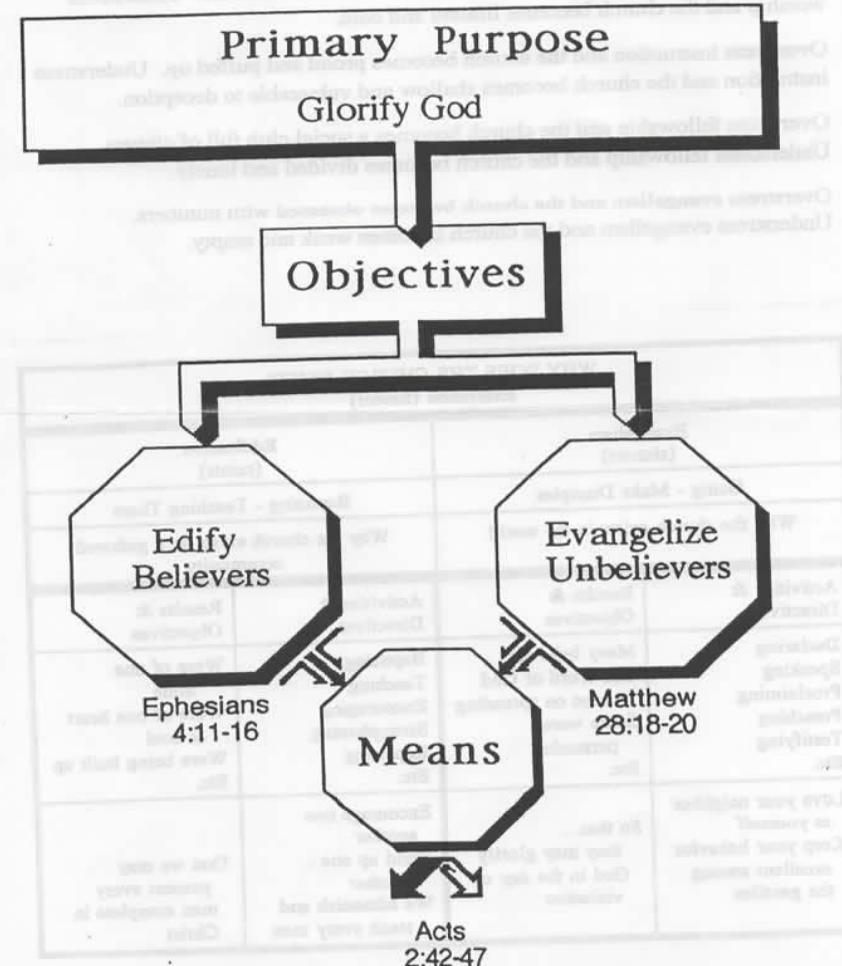


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Context/Background

- Author: Luke (AD 60-64)
- Audience: “Theophilus” and primarily Gentile readers
- Acts: Transitional book that chronicles the historical unfolding of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the personal, indwelling member of the Trinity in believers’ hearts and lives

A Biblical Vision For the Church



Participating In Sincere Worship

- (vv. 42-43 & v.46) Early followers of Jesus were devoted to continual worship of God
- “Worship” – “to assign worth and value to” OT word, “to bow down, NT word, “to bow with respect and devotion”
- “breaking of bread and prayers” – reference to Lord’s Supper; seems simple to many, but sincere and powerful
- Results: great awe and wonder; signs and miracles

- John 4:23, “But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”
- Psalm 95:6, “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”



Soaking In Bible Instruction

- (v. 42a) The early believers were involved in study, learning, and instruction of Jesus' words and ways
- Doctrine: teaching, instructions, that which is believed and followed
- Apostles were faithful to pass on to others the lessons Jesus taught them; very careful to teach truth
- Early church was focused on learning and growing in truth of God's Word

- 2 Tim. 2:15, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- Ps. 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”



Developing Genuine Fellowship

- (vv. 44-45) Early church was caring and sought to build strong relationships
- Word “common”- “that which is shared, that which is common among all, where we get our word “communion” from”
- Fellowship; not just being at same place with others, not just eating a meal together
- Sharing life with others and growing in relationship with; Christ-like unity

- Ps. 133:1, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”
- Phils. 2:2, “...fulfill my joy by being like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”



Promoting Evangelism

- (v. 41 & v.47) Early church experienced growth through salvations
- 3,000 were saved at one time (v.41)
- The Lord added “daily” to the Church those being saved (v. 47)
- The Good News of God’s salvation through personal relationship with Jesus was shared
- The early church was intentional about sharing the truth of receiving God’s free gift of eternal life

- I Peter 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”



Being Sacrificial With Service

- (v. 43 & v. 47) These early believers sought to meet needs and impact community
- (v. 43) “...sold possessions, divided them among all as anyone had need.” Needs were being met and people attended to in community
- (v. 47) “...praising God and having favor with all the people.” Luke shows the church was attune to community and its needs; sought to be force for good

- I Peter 4:10, “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
- Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

