

## WHAT CHRIST'S CHURCH LOOKED LIKE

### Acts 2:41-47

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. Photographs.
  - 1. Memories refreshed.
  - 2. Clarify the abstract.
    - a. I am a visual learner.
    - b. Instruction manual – pictures.
- B. The Lord's Church.
  - 1. Emphasis is on Acts 2:38, but believing and being baptized – just the beginning!
  - 2. They were learning to walk like Jesus.
  - 3. Vss. 42-47 show a living picture of the early church.
  - 4. We are not left to guess as to what they did, how they lived.
  - 5. *So, why do we do what we do?*

#### I. UNWAVERING COMMITMENT, vs. 42.

- A. Steadfast in the Apostle's Teaching.
  - 1. They shared what they learned from Christ, committed to Matt. 28:20.
  - 2. The last book of the N.T. not completed until 66 yrs. later.
  - 3. Traditions taught, 2 Thess. 2:15.
- B. Fellowship [koinonia].
  - 1. To have in common or to share.
    - a. Galatians 6:6
    - b. Sharing a common bond, 1 John 1:3, 7.
      - i. With each other.
      - ii. And with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, 2 Cor. 13:14.
  - 2. Also, an ***expression*** of a common bond.
    - a. Communion, 1 Cor. 10:16.
    - b. Contribution [*koinonia*], Romans 15:26.
- C. Breaking Bread – The Lord's Supper, 1 Cor. 11:23-26.
  - 1. In context with “worship” – Lord's Supper.
- D. Prayer, Rom. 12:12 (description of love).

#### II. UNSELFISH IN COMPASSION.

- A. All Things in Common, vs. 44.
  - 1. Selling their property and possessions, vs. 45.
    - a. Not a command, but as the need arose.
    - b. Not everyone (because house to house, vs. 46).
  - 2. Day by day – breaking bread, vs. 46.
- B. Meeting a Special Challenge.
  - 1. Jews from all over civilized world gathered for Pentecost.
  - 2. Many baptized lingered in Jerusalem.
    - a. Not prepared (money or food) for a long stay.
    - b. A unique opportunity for the early church.
  - 3. Acts 11:29 – the famine in Judea (support of Christians in Antioch).

4. The attitude of Christians.
  - a. Stewards of God's possessions, Psalm 50:10-12; 1 Cor. 4:2.
  - b. 1 John 3:17
5. The benevolence of this congregation commended:
  - a. Change Cans.
  - b. Clothing Drive.
  - c. Flood Victims.

### **III. UNITED IN CHRIST.**

- A. Met Daily In the Temple, Acts 2:46-47.
- B. Met from House to House.
  1. Breaking bread – common meal.
  2. Taking their meals together.
  3. Sharing with gladness (not grumbling or complaining, Phil. 2:14).
  4. Sincerity [*single-mindedness*] of heart.
  5. John 13:34-35
  6. Ephesians 2:19-22
- C. Having Favor with All.

### **CLOSING**

- A. How can we be Christ's church today?
  1. Duplicate and Dedicate.
  2. Obedience to God's Word, Acts 2:38.
  3. Dedicate to living as Christ's church.