

Family Values

Acts - Part 4 John 21
Noah Largent 5/22/22



Acts 2:42 They **devoted themselves to**

(1) the apostles' teaching and to (2) fellowship, to the (3) breaking of bread and to (4) prayer.

1. They devoted themselves to: Apostles' Teaching

The early church devoted themselves to the continued study of the scriptures (the Old Testament) with Jesus being the new lens that they see everything through!

Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night... whatever they do prospers. (See also Joshua 1:7-8)

What is your view on life? To fulfill the purpose God made you for, you will have to challenge the conventional wisdom of the world and replace it with the biblical view of life. The Bible says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- *The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren page 42*

2. They devoted themselves to: Fellowship

A new community has formed! NOT based on race, sex, social or economic status. The common bond is a commitment to following Jesus' way. They met together and took care of each other.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

3. They devoted themselves to: Breaking of Bread

This was a radical new way of living! In their world relationships were defined by ethnicity and social structures, who you associated with said something about you and your values. Sharing a meal was a way of saying you are invited into my life! Breaking Bread (communion) was also a way of remembering and giving thanks for the life Jesus gave them.

4. They devoted themselves to: Prayer

If prayer was important to Jesus, how can it not be essential for us to practice? Reading through the account of the early church, it's not difficult to see how much they relied on it.

Acts 4:24; 4:31; 6:4; 6:6;7:59; 8:15; 9:40; 10:2; 10:3; 10:9; 13:3; 14:23; 16:13; 16:16, 20:36; 21:5; 26:29; 27:29; 28:8

The Result?

- Happy Hearts! (joy).
- Thanked God!
- God added to their number daily!



Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. They devoted themselves to learning from the Apostles teaching. Who's teaching is shaping your life (for good or bad)?
3. Describe your prayer life. Who do you pray with regularly? How are your prayers like (or different) than Paul's prayers? (PDF "Paul's Prayers" from web)

Notes:
