

Memory Verse

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

**THE CHURCH HAS
LEFT THE BUILDING...**

**PART 5 – THE WORK
OF THE CHURCH**

The **church** is those who have trusted by **faith** alone, in Jesus alone, for salvation. The church is an **organized organism**, and **family**, structured around the ancient **synagogue**. God has ordained 2 offices or leadership positions in the church: **Pastor** and **Deacon** (and *at times* *deaconesses*), though God has given the **main leadership roles** to **men**. We studied the **qualifications** and **responsibilities** of these positions and talked about a few **questions** *about leadership*.

1. *Preaching.*
2. *Teaching.*
3. *Evangelism.*
4. *Providing for needs.*
5. *Worship.*

Some will be a review, and some will be new.
This will be a *general overview*, and
application to us.

Acts 2:29-47

“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.30Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh

see corruption. 32This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. 33Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. 34For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, 35until I make your enemies your footstool.””

36Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

37Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we

do?” 38And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the

Holy Spirit. 39For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. 42And they devoted themselves to the

apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46And day by day, attending the temple together and

breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A. Acts 2:29-41 - Preaching

These verses include a variety of things. One thing is preaching. There are *2 aspects* to this... *preaching outside the church* and *preaching inside the church*. Remember the *historical context*. This was **Passover**, one of the main feasts where all males were *required to return to Jerusalem, with their families*.

A. Acts 2:29-41 - Preaching

What is preaching? Simply, it is the ***proclamation of the truth***. In the text, it was at *Herod's Temple*. As I said, there are 2 contexts in which *preaching is done*. **First**, is **outside the church**, or evangelism. We *proclaim Jesus* to the world that does not know Him, and salvation only available in Him, **publicly**.

A. Acts 2:29-41 - Preaching

Second is within the church. Some pastors are called “*preachers*,” because they declare the word of God. While *some preachers* are loud, sweat, may use a lot of illustrations, *not all are like that*. There are **different ways** this is done, but at the core, the *preacher is to boldly proclaim the word of God!*

B. Acts 2:42 - Teaching

In verse 42, the second work of the church is *teaching*.

What is teaching? It is the ***explanation of the truth***. *Preaching is declaring the truth*, and *teaching is explaining the truth*.

B. Acts 2:42 - Teaching

These followers of the Messiah in the text, ***devoted themselves to the apostles teaching.*** They were completely dedicated, fixed, continuing with intense effort in their study, and despite problems or opposition, were serious about learning the apostles teaching or doctrine. They were ***not halfhearted followers of Jesus.***

B. Acts 2:42 - Teaching

That's why *we study the Bible*. This is the **spiritual food** we need to live, survive and thrive in our *relationship with God*. Within the *context* of the *early assembly* they focused on teaching within a service. One example is in *Acts 20:7-12*, where Paul spoke until midnight.

C. Acts 2:43 - Evangelism

While the miracles were highlighted in verse 43, the **message** was the *focus*, which comes *before this verse*. *They declared and shared Jesus with others!* They did it within their context and today, we do the same thing.

C. Acts 2:43 - Evangelism

Aside from preaching and teaching, *the work of the church*, and the work of *those of us at GraceLife* is to **declare and share Jesus!** In all we do, whether setting up a table and handing out water and Bibles, or giving food to the elementary school to help families, as *individuals*: **we proclaim Jesus, and salvation only available through Him!**

D. Acts 2:44-45 - Providing for Needs

The 4th work or activity of the church is ***providing for the needs of others***. These include *physical, emotional, spiritual* and *mental needs* we have. In the text, they had *all things in common*, sharing with those who had a need.

D. Acts 2:44-45 - Providing for Needs

They **voluntarily** *helped each other*. They were not forced to do this, and if you read *Acts 5*, Peter said the land that Annanias and Sapphira owned, *was their own to do with what they chose*. Later, Paul had to *take up a collection* to take back to the church in Jerusalem, because of a *famine*.

1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his **brother in need**, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

D. Acts 2:44-45 - Providing for Needs

Another aspect is *providing for those in need outside of the body of Christ*. This is why we help the school, and do what we can to help those in need. Providing for physical needs is the **bridge to share the gospel**. Providing for *physical needs* is **never** an *end in itself*.

E. Acts 2:46-47 - Worship

The last work of the church is *worship*. Fellowship is included, but they *all praised God!* What is **worship**? There are *wonderful definitions*, one of which is *Romans 12:1-2*. Other definitions of worship in Scripture is to bow down, give a sacrifice, and more. I want to *define it as: Giving all of who we are to God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31 - So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

E. Acts 2:46-47 - Worship

But, as we go out of here, we **continue worshipping** the Lord. **How?** *Loving Him, singing to Him, thinking about what He has done for us in Christ, being a good worker on our job, being an ethical leader or manager, treating our employees, neighbors, family, friends and other Christians with respect and dignity, telling the truth in love. Being thankful...*