

Devoted to the Apostles' Teaching

Act 2:42 ESV And they devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

- **What is the apostles' teaching? - remember the NT was not yet formed**

How Jesus breathed life into a disillusioned group of disciples

Read Luke 24:15-49 -- They were disillusioned in part -- did not understand the purpose of God

- Luk 24:15-21 ESV While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And **they stood still, looking sad**. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was **a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him**. 21 But ***we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel***. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.....Luk 24:22-24 ESV Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when **they did not find his body**, they came back saying that they had even seen a **vision of angels, who said that he was alive**. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, **but him they did not see**."

The very thing that discouraged them was in fact the eternal purpose of God - throughout Scripture

- Luk 24:25-27 ESV And he said to them, "**O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?***" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures ***the things concerning himself***.

The impact of the word of God on their hearts

- Luk 24:32 ESV They said to each other, "**Did not our hearts burn within us** while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

- Luk 24:44-49 ESV Then he said to them, "**These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**" 45 Then he **opened their minds to understand the Scriptures**, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the ***Christ should suffer*** and on the third day ***rise from the dead***,

He gave them a mission they must proclaim it (for repentance and forgiveness)

- 47 and that ***repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed*** in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 **You are witnesses of these things**.

He gave them the Holy Spirit

- 49 And behold, I am sending the **promise of my Father upon you**. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

What is the apostles' teaching - this is at least part of it

- 1) **Old Testament scripture** (Moses, Prophets, Psalms) - He opened their minds to understand
- 2) **A focus in OT Scripture "things concerning himself"**- His suffering, death, and resurrection,
- 3) **The words/teachings of Jesus** - that the Holy Spirit would remind them of
- 4) Jesus spent 40 days with them - Commands given by the Holy Spirit & spoke of the Kingdom of God

Acts 2:17-39 first sermon -- it is what Jesus told them (OT about himself, repentance and forgiveness)

- In the first preaching of the gospel (Acts 2) Peter drew on (Psalm 16, 69, 109, 110, 132 and Joel 2)
- This was common structure with Stephen's, Peter's and Paul's preaching as well -
- they spoke of OT scripture, the death burial and resurrection, repentance and forgiveness of sins

How is the church devoted to the apostles' teaching? (truth burned in hearts - they can't help but speak it)

IT WAS DEVOTED TO THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

- Act 4:29 ESV And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to **continue to speak your word with all boldness,**
- Act 5:19-20 ESV But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 **"Go and stand in the temple and speak** to the people all the words of this Life."
- Act 6:2 ESV And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should **give up preaching the word of God** to serve tables.....Act 6:4 ESV But we will **devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.**".....Act 6:7 ESV And the **word of God continued to increase,** and the **number of the disciples multiplied** greatly in Jerusalem, and a great **many of the priests became obedient** to the faith.
- Act 8:3-4 ESV But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. 4 Now those who were **scattered went about preaching the word.**
- Act 11:1 ESV Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had **received the word of God.**
- Act 12:24 ESV But the **word of God increased and multiplied.**
- Act 19:20 ESV So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Proclamation → leads to teaching and teaching → leads to proclamation

- Act 11:19-26 ESV Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch,[PROCLAMATION] **speaking the word to no one except Jews.** 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also,[PROCLAMATION] **preaching the Lord Jesus.** 21 And the **hand of the Lord was with them,** and **a great number who believed turned to the Lord.** 22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and[TEACHING] **he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord** with steadfast purpose, 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a [PROCLAMATION] **great many people were added to the Lord.** 25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. [TEACHING]For **a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people.** And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.....[PROCLAMATION] Acts 13:1-3 - Certain Teachers → Separate Barnabas and Paul → proclamation
- Act 19:8-10 ESV [PROCLAMATION]And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him,[TEACHING] **reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.** 10 This continued for two years, [PROCLAMATION] so that **all the residents of Asia heard the word** of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. (1.5 to 2 million)

The "ministry of the word" that does not include preaching the gospel is foreign to the NT church

Devotion to the word made the church powerful, secure in belief, and moved them to obedience