

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – February 20 -25
Doing Life Together – A Church with a Pattern

MONDAY: Hosea 4:6, Proverbs 10:21, Jeremiah 5:4

KEY VERSE: Acts 2:41-47

OBSERVATION Knowing: Paul warned in 2 Timothy 4:3,4 that the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths." It is now quite common to find churches, many of them large, that teach very little from the Scriptures, or they use the Bible as a reference, but they actually teach what they want to believe instead of what it says.

TUESDAY: 1 John 1:3, Galatians 2:9, Psalm 55:14

KEY VERSE: Acts 2:41-47

OBSERVATION: Fellowship: Many people think of fellowship as just getting together and talking. That is just socializing. Fellowship is much more than that. The word for fellowship, *koinwniva*, / *koin'nia*, is the same word we translate as communion. It signifies close mutual relationships and partnerships with one another because of some common bond. For the Christian, that bond is salvation in Jesus Christ. While socialization is a part of it, fellowship goes way beyond that to sacrificially ministering to one another according to how God has gifted you. It is putting into practice all the "one another" verses – love, devotion, building up, encouraging, accepting, forbearing admonishing, caring, being kind, helping, esteeming, comforting, etc.

WEDNESDAY: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 1 Corinthians 11:22-25

KEY VERSE: Acts 2:41-47

OBSERVATION: Sharing of Bread: Some take this to mean eating meals together as is mentioned in verse 46, but the phrase used here actually has the article attached so that it is literally translated as "the breaking of the bread." It is actually a reference to a celebration of the Lord's Supper, which in the early church was often included as part of a common meal shared together that was called a "love feast" (Jude 12). It was very important to them to be obedient to Jesus' command to remember His death until He comes. In addition, there is also a unity with the Lord and with other believers shown in the Lord's Supper

THURSDAY: 1 Kings 8:28, Psalm 17:1, James 5:15

KEY VERSE: Acts 2:41-47

OBSERVATION: Prayer: These early Christians understood the importance of coming before the Lord in prayer in seeking His leading and blessing. Jesus had ascended to heaven and they could no longer see Him, touch Him or talk to Him face to face, but they could still talk to Him through prayer, and He would still communicate to them through the Apostles' doctrine and the moving of the Holy Spirit who now indwelt them.

FRIDAY: 1 Corinthians 12:12, Romans 15:19, Acts 2:19

KEY VERSE: Acts 2:41-47

OBSERVATION: Signs: Just as with Jesus, the purpose of these wonders and signs was to demonstrate the authority and authenticity of the one doing them as someone who was speaking for God, therefore, the people needed to pay attention to what he was saying (cf. John 14:10-12). Hebrews 2:4 points out that God bore witness with the apostles by the signs, wonder and various miracles that He performed through them. One of Paul's defenses of his apostleship to the Corinthians was that he did the signs, wonders and miracles of a true apostle (2 Cor. 12:12). The result of the apostles performing these wonders and signs all the people were full of awe (*fovbos* / *phobos*) which is a reverent fear.

SATURDAY: 1 Timothy 6:18, Proverbs 11:25, Psalm 37:26

KEY VERSE: Acts 2:41-47

OBSERVATION: Generosity: Luke gives more information about this practice in the early church in Chapter 4:32-37 and 5:1-11. In 5:3, 4 in particular we find that the land and the proceeds of any sale of land belonged to the owner to do with as he pleased. What pleased many in this early church was to give all of it to the apostles for distribution among those who were needy. It was done out of love due to the common bond of fellowship with Christ and one another.