

The Beginning of the Church

Acts 2:40-47

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I. The sermon's results. Acts 2:40-41

Notice, "**and exhorted them.**" The word **exhort** in the original language means to beg, entreat, beseech, _____, and strengthen by consolation, to comfort with the Word of God. **2 Timothy 4:2-5**

- We know every generation without Christ is **perverse**, but the people that Peter was preaching to in Jerusalem were especially **perverse** because they had _____ to Christ's death. **Acts 2:23**

II. Early Christians were determined learners. Acts 2:42

dictionary.com says that **steadfastly** means fixed in direction, firm in purpose, resolution, faith, attachment, and unwavering as a resolution, _____.

- The essential meaning of **koinonia (fellowship)** implies _____ participation, sharing, and intimacy. It is doing life together.

Notice, **Acts 2:42 "and in prayers"**. The early followers were also devoted to _____ together. **Ephesians 6:18**

III. The early followers were in awe of the LORD. Acts 2:43

The terror of the LORD comes upon those who do not know God as their Abba Father, but believers in Christ should be _____ by His majesty and wonder. **1 John 4:18**

- As we are led by His Spirit, we should _____ great things from the LORD, as we attempt to do great things for the LORD!

IV. The early followers shared with one another. Acts 2:44-46

Most of these early followers were hated by their families and communities so they were _____ by their synagogues for accepting Christ.

- The early Church members shared with one another, so all of their needs were met, and that sharing produced _____.

V. The early followers worshiped the LORD together. Acts 2:47

If you are serving like Jesus, teaching like Jesus, and treating people like Jesus did, you will receive persecution, as you are counted worthy to suffer like your master, and that produces _____.

- We share community, faith, and worship, as we experience personal growth, hope, and _____ from one another.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read **Acts 2:40-41**. How was the word, "**testify**" defined in the sermon? How was the word "**exhort**" defined in the sermon? How should we exhort others?
2 Timothy 4:2-5, 2 Corinthians 9:5, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Titus 2:6
2. Peter encouraged his listeners to "**be saved from this perverse generation**". What generations in history were perverse? Which generation was the most perverse?
Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Acts 2:23
3. Read **Acts 2:42**. Look at the sermon note sheet under the heading of II. and describe the word, "**steadfastly**". Discuss the meaning of the word "**fellowship**" and how vital it is within the Church.
Romans 12:15-16, Matthew 6:6, Ephesians 6:18, John 13:26, Matthew 26:23
4. Read **Acts 2:43**. Discuss the difference between fear of the LORD and being terrified.
1 John 4:18-19, Proverbs 9:10, Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 14:27, 2 Timothy 1:7
5. Read **Acts 2:45-46**. Discuss the ways we can share all things within the Church. *Are you equipped for works of service? If so, what services are you doing? If not, what equipping do you need? How have you loved and served your church family?*
Ephesians 4:11-16, Luke 18:82 Corinthians 9:7-8, Matthew 6:21
6. Read **Acts 2:47**. Discuss the importance of a Church worshipping the LORD together. *How can we encourage one another?*
Psalm 84:10, Psalm 132:7, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 10:25