

# Back to the Basics 2 - The Church

## Last Week

### Bible

- The bible is how we see and know who God is, it is the word of God, it is alive and powerful, & it shows us the things we need to change to live according to God's will

## The First Disciples Were Committed to the Church

### Acts 2:42-47

*42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

- The book of Acts records how the Gospel spread after Jesus ascended into heaven. It is primarily a descriptive book, presenting facts as they happened
- Here it describes that the earliest Christians made gathering together for worship and fellowship a priority
- This happens immediately after the first recorded sermon by Peter and formation of the first church in Jerusalem

## God's Word Tells Us to Go to Church

### Hebrews 10:19-25

*19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

- This passage has two important parts; Therefore... lets us...x3
- V19-21 Therefore since we can confidently say we have a relationship with God through the death burial and resurrection of Jesus
- V22-25 Let us...
  - V22 Draw near to God regardless of what we have done, He has forgiven all our sin
  - V23 Hold fast (persevere, keep faithful) regardless of what we go through, good and bad
  - V24 Consider how to encourage each other, by meeting together, as the Return of Jesus comes ever closer
- These things are a communal commitment that happens through the church, notice the 3rd person plural pronouns "we" & "us"
  - Because we believe in Jesus, we draw near together, persevere together, and encourage each other through our regular meeting together in and through the local church.

# You Need the Church and the Church Needs You

## 1 Corinthians 12:21-31

*21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

*27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts.*

- In the first paragraph Paul gives a basic anatomy lesson we all can see & understand
  - Each of our body parts is unique and equally important for you overall health, when one part is infected or injured, the whole body suffers.
  - When all the parts are healthy and functioning the whole body is healthy.
- In the second paragraph Paul compares the body of Christ (the local church) to our physical bodies
  - Each of us has unique gifts and abilities just as the parts of body have unique abilities and functions
  - We all come together with our unique gifts and abilities to make the church function in the same way all of our individual parts come together to make the body function appropriately

# Discussion Questions

- Do you think it's possible to genuinely be a Christian and not go to church?
- Is it possible to fully live according to God's will and not go to church?
- In your own words, why is regular church attendance important to God?
- Why do you think the earliest Christians were committed to regularly meeting together for fellowship and teaching?
  - In what ways do you see our church imitating this commitment?
- How does regularly going church help a person draw near to God, persevere through hard times, and be encouraged to live for God?
  - How have you experienced these things by going to church?
  - Have you or another Christian ever struggled with these things while they had been away from church for awhile?
- In your own words how would you describe the comparison of our physical body to the body of Christ (a local church)?
  - How have you seen our church follow this comparison?
  - How does committing to a local Church help give people a purpose and direction?
- Do you think physically going to church is the same as watching a livestream church service? Why or why not?
- Do you think that livestream services are a good thing? Why or why not?
- What do you think God is wanting you to learn through today's lesson?
  - *Potential answers could include:*
    - *Committing to make church a priority over other things you may want to do*
    - *Committing to come go to church on Sunday in addition to Wednesday*
    - *Finding a place to serve and contribute to the church*
    - *Invite another believer you know that needs the support and encouragement of the church*