

# What the World is Dying For...

- Acts 2: Baby church of first century...

Jesus has Lived/Died/Risen/Ascended/Commanded

**John 15:12 ... love one another as I have loved you.**

**Acts 2:42** ...[the church] continued **steadfastly** in the **apostles' doctrine** and **fellowship**, in the **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they **ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart**, 47 **praising God** and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

**Q. What is the world dying for?** Sin is killing them. Penalty for sin is death.

**Q. What is the world dying for?** What does need to live...We have it,

There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ. [Pascal]

**Atonement:** Made complete in Christ

- Death came through Adam to all men Broken/Incomplete
- Life came through Jesus to all who believe Made whole/Perfect

The world is dying to be made whole...They just don't know it  
A Life Abundant and Full. Connected to God and One Another

- Early Church exemplified the Abundant Life the world is dying for...

Steadfast in Teaching. Fellowship. Communion. Prayer

## I. Teaching A world filled with lies is dying for truth

They just don't know it

The Truth of the Word Changes Lives

- Not Psychology
- Not Extra-Biblical publications
- Not How-To books
- Not Tradition or Fables... The world is dying for the Truth of the Word....

**2 Timothy 4:1** [Paul to Timothy] I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 **Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according

to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Teaching of the Word reveals who God is...Who we are in Christ  
All we need for victory in this life

**2 Peter 1:3** ...His divine power has given to us **all things** that pertain to **life and godliness**

Teaching of the Word shows us how to live the Abundant Life

**2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given** by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- **Teaching of the Word is Profitable:** To obtain advantage over deceit
- Profitable for life and godliness...

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>1. Doctrine</b>    | Principles of Scripture                            |
| <b>2. Reproof</b>     | Don't do that... it will bring death               |
| <b>3. Correction</b>  | Do this... it will bring life                      |
| <b>4. Instruction</b> | Here's how to live the Spirit filled abundant life |

A world bombarded by lies is dying for the Truth we have  
**We are to be found steadfast in the Teaching of the Word**

## II. Fellowship A lonely world is dying for relationship

They just don't know it

- **Fellowship:** gr. *koinonia*. Association, communion, **participation**, sharing

It is not good for man to be alone

**Fellowship:** Intimate Relationship with God/others

**1 John 1:3** ...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that **you also may have fellowship with us**; and truly our **fellowship** is with the **Father and with His Son Jesus Christ**. 4 And these things we write to you that **your joy may be full**.

**Fullness of Joy** is found in Fellowship with God and God's People  
A lonely world is dying for the joy found in true fellowship

- **Commonality of Relationship with Jesus**

1. Jesus centered/Others focused
2. Encouraging Conversation
3. Building up/Exhorting [challenging] one another
4. Working together/Not competing
5. Playing together/Some competing

A lonely world is dying for relationships we enjoy  
We are to be found steadfast in Fellowship

### **III. Communion** A divided world is dying for the community we have They just don't know it

Community within the church is built on 3 Commonalities  
We are all Sinners. We all need a Savior. We all have a Savior

The world has little communion because its predominant commonality is sin  
The world is divided and dying for heart felt communion

v46 They Ate Their food with Gladness/Simplicity of Heart

- **Gladness:** Lit. Exultation, extreme joy
- **Simplicity** [singleness] of Heart: Lit. w/out rocks/smooth/plain. No contention

God requires communion with one another which included breaking bread...

- **Pre-Israel:** Jesus brought Abram bread/wine and they communed
- **OT: 3 Required Jewish Feasts:** Passover/Pentecost/Tabernacles they communed
- **NT: Bread/Wine:** Do this in remembrance of Me and we commune together/w/Him

Jesus loves communing/eating with His people  
Jesus loved breaking bread His creation...

- Ate with Sinners: Feeding thousands
- Ate with Believers: Last Supper
- **Will eat with us...**

Jesus will serve those who are at the Wedding Feast

**Luke 12:37** Blessed are those servants whom the master when he comes will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he **[Jesus] will gird himself** and have them sit down to eat, **and will come and serve them.**

**Isaiah 25:6** ...in this mountain The **Lord of hosts will make for all people A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees.**<sup>7</sup> And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations.<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever.....and the Lord **God will wipe away tears from all faces**

- Jesus will serve food/wipe away our tears

As the Millennial Kingdom begins...  
All God's people will commune with Jesus

**Matthew 8:10** [Wedding Feast to begin the Kingdom] "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! <sup>11</sup> And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and **sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.**

New Wine of the Holy Spirit. Life Abundant/Full/Now and Forever

A divided world is dying for the community we have

We are to be found steadfast in Communion

## IV. Prayer A Hurting World is Dying to Converse with God

They just don't know it

- Teaching, Fellowship, Communion...
- **Prayer:** Conversation with God
  1. Thanksgiving
  2. Adoration
  3. Supplication
  4. Intercession

**Luke 11:2** Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

God becomes our Father when we put our faith in His Son. Connection made

- **Teach us to Pray:** Template/Model Prayer
  1. Our Father
  2. Our Father in heaven
  3. Holy is His Name
  4. God's will be done
  5. Daily Bread
- **1<sup>st</sup> Century church prayed:** Themselves. Other believers, unsaved

**1 Timothy 2:1** ...I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior 4 who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus..

A hurting World is dying to converse with God as we have the privilege to do  
We are to be found Steadfast in Prayer

## V. The Healthy Church

**Acts 2:42** ...and they continued **steadfastly** in the **apostles' doctrine** and **fellowship**, in the **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**..

What happens when the church acts like the church?

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in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they **ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart**, 47 **praising God** and having favor with all the people.

What happens when the church acts like the church?

- Onlookers: Healthy Fear of God
- Great Works of God
- Sharing/Going to Church
- Visiting each other
- Eating together with Gladness/Simplicity of Heart
- Praising God. Having favor with the **watching world**

...And **the Lord added** to the church daily those who were being saved.

What did the watching world see?

Jesus centered Teaching. Fellowship. Communion. Prayer

IOWs What happens when a church acts like the church?

Sinners saved/made whole...Finding what they were really dying for

To be Made Whole. One with God. Abundant Life. Real Life in Jesus