

The Forever Family Challenge: Acts 2:47

Intro. Happy thanksgiving. Family is what we are talking about today. The marks of a growing church – devoted to teaching, breaking bread, fellowship, prayer, reverence (fear), meeting needs, worship, and evangelism. Forever family cannot lose its focus.

- I. The Lord adds: don't lose
focus – Heb. 12:1-2**

- a. He gets the glory
- b. He is the message.
- c. It's not about me

II. To the group: don't lose patience

- a. Different – backgrounds, personalities, race, economic conditions, even alabama fans, but we accept them because Jesus accepts them. The bride – don't talk bad about the bride.
- b. A large group and some invisible. Heb. 11:32ff
- c. My group. My family. My responsibility. My help in tough times, My hope in desperate times, My comfort in helpless times. My family. No one responds alone (Ray Melton).

III. Those being saved daily. Don't lose grace

- a. There are those being saved you thought would never come around. My dad – don't give up. Heb. 12:3
- b. Heb. 12:15 – see to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Conclusion: The holidays give us even more opportunity to talk about Jesus. Make the most of every opportunity. You have an opportunity today to make Jesus your Lord. Do it. There is opportunity today to get back right and committed to this forever family. Do it.