

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 7-27-25
Christianity 103 – Message 2 Part 7
Life among believers.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) We are still praying and teaching toward the goal of each of us narrowing the gap between what we know as a Christian and how we live each day.
- 2) We are hoping to discover what it means to “BE” the church.
- 3) From Acts 2:42:
 - a) They continued “steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine” –
 - b) They continued steadfastly in “fellowship” –
 - c) They continued steadfastly in “breaking of bread” –
 - d) They continued steadfastly in “prayers” –

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Our journey has exposed some realities about the disciples –
 - a) They are being obedient.
- 2) Application – What do you see here?
 - a) Is understanding always a prerequisite for obeying the Lord?
 - b) Trust is a prerequisite, but understanding isn’t.
 - c) Think back over what we have seen so far.

2. Fear came upon every soul. Acts 2:43

a. What comes to mind when you read this?

- 1) What kind of fear is this speaking of?
 - a) The Greek word – “phobos” – a profound respect for someone or something and is often used in relation to a deity. “Phobos” also speaks of fear, dread and terror.

b. Two kinds of fear.

- 1) There is a fear mentioned in the Bible that is not a good thing.
 - a) II Timothy 1:7 –
 - b) This word, “fear” – speaks of timidity, fearfulness or cowardice.
 - c) “hath not given us the spirit of fear” –
 - d) You have been given – “power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”
- 2) What does biblical “fear” look like?
 - a) A reverential awe of God; a reverence for His power and glory. However, it is also a proper respect for His wrath and anger. In other words, the fear of the Lord is a total acknowledgement of all that God is, which comes through knowing Him and His attributes.
- 3) The “fear” that came upon every soul –
 - a) Characterized by awe as they witnessed the “wonders and signs.”
 - b) Fear of the judgement of God.
 - c) Hebrews 10:31 –

3. Jewish insight is very helpful here.

a. God made this clear to Israel.

- 1) Deut. 10:12 –
 - a) It is true, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
 - b) Proverbs 19:23 –
- 2) Hebrew word for “fear” is “yirah”.
 - a) It can speak of the fear that is felt with anticipation of some danger or pain but also that of awe and reverence.

- b) “Yirah” includes the idea of wonder, amazement, mystery, astonishment, gratitude, admiration and even worship that flows from awe and wonder.
- b. Three important distinctions to consider:
 - 1) The first is the fear of unpleasant consequences or punishment.
 - 2) The second is being anxious or worried over breaking God’s laws or commands.
 - 3) The third is a profound reverence for life that comes from correctly seeing.
- 4. Learning what it means to fear the Lord.
 - a. Proverbs 1:1-7 –
 - 1) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.
 - 2) Proverbs 15:33 –
 - a) Does the fear of the Lord have something to do with humility?
 - b) Pride and arrogance keep us from the Lord, so it makes sense that the fear of the Lord begins with humility.
 - 3) Application –
 - a) As you see how great God is, you begin to see yourself for who you are.
- b. Creation gives us some help here.
 - 1) Psalm 33:8-9 – provides some context on this knowledge of God and fear.
 - a) Creation displays the mighty hand and power of God.
 - b) We can see what happens when people remove from their minds, “in the beginning God created...”
 - 2) Can you see how being humble before God sets in motion and sustains the growing in the knowledge of God which in turn reveals who God is and thus the response from our heart should be that we fear the Lord.
- 5. Today’s Take Away:
 - a. To the unbelievers that day and today.
 - b. To the believers that day and today.