

**Acts 2 | The Fruit of the Kingdom: Word and Prayer**  
**Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

Acts 2.40-47:

We've seen: The transforming power of the Kingdom. Jesus is continuing to do and teach.  
We are brought into a Kingdom, with a good, gracious, fearful King!  
God has poured out His Spirit in us, making Christ real to us.  
Then we've seen how He works through us by His Spirit.

Then Peter stands up and preaches Jesus! People cut to the heart, and 3000 are added!

So we are going to look at the signs that were seen. **Life expresses itself!** This is the effects of this power, the fruit of Pentecost. Are they evident in your life? Pursue Christ!

## **1. They were devoted to the Apostles Teaching (Doctrine)**

This literally means the Apostles doctrine! This is teaching about the facts of Christianity, what we believe.

Many people today hate doctrine. They say things like 'doctrine divides, Jesus unites'. Or, the facts aren't important. Which on the surface of it seems plausible.

But you can't get beyond doctrine though.

- **If you say 'we just love Jesus'**, then the question is asked, 'well who is Jesus?' what's He like? (The Muslim cutting my hair.) Suddenly you're into doctrine!
- **You may quote John 3.16** 'for God so loved (**Love of God**) the world, that He gave (**incarnation**) His only son (**Trinity**), that whoever believes (justification by faith) in Him (**his death and resurrection**) **should** not perish (**Hell**) but have everlasting life (**Heaven**). This is jam packed full of doctrine!! In fact this verse means nothing at all if it isn't for doctrine!!
- **To say that you mustn't be dogmatic** is to be dogmatic! It reveals your own views. You are trying to convert me to your way of thinking. By saying you can't convert people you are trying to convert people to your view that views aren't important! It's your doctrine!
- Maybe you say you must **just be a good person** to be a Christian. We call that a doctrine of good works! Jesus speaks about that one!

**Therefore I want us to see that we actually all have views**, we all have a framework, a system of belief. You can't be indifferent deep down. It's either right or wrong!

## **Why did they devote themselves to doctrine?**

**Because it's so important!** Paul says: "if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let them be accursed". (Gal 1.9)

**Tozer:** 'what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us'.

It's the basis of your relationship. **Anniversary Example!** Matt 25: 'I knew you to be a hard man'.

Soft Santa	Gives good to good. Won't take him seriously. Try to be good.
Hard Task Master	Live in terror or fear. Won't love with all your heart.
A busy parent, overworked	He's got more important things, global warming or gaza.

No! But we see God, not like a Santa because he takes sin so seriously He is willing to watch His own Son die for it. And so loving He sends his Son to die in our place. And so interested in us that he knows the hairs on our heads and calls us by name.

**These disciples saw that, and devoted themselves to truth!**

**The Basis of your relationship with God is bend on his nature & character. What is He like?**

Secondly, we become like what we worship! 'We tend by a secret law of the soul to move towards our mental image of God'. **Your whole life is built around your image of God if you like it or not!**

**You may be saying: I need help for my marriage not a talk on doctrine. Don't you see, your marriage and how you treat your wife is a function of your doctrine!?**

## **What was this doctrine?**

'Apostles teaching'.. those entrusted to talk about Jesus. What did the Apostles teach? **My Study.** About Jesus and his work and the repercussion for life!

Doctrine is primarily **facts** about God and Jesus. 1 Cor 15.17 "If Christ is not raised your faith is futile and you are still dead in your sins". The gospel is historical.

It's all about Jesus. Jesus is the Word made flesh!

If you don't see that the scriptures are all about Jesus, it will crush you, you won't make it. If you go to the bible to find principles, morals, 7 keys to a happier life, techniques, pithy statements and cheap motivation, you'll miss it all. **Isaiah 9 For to us a Son is given..**

**This separates our faith from mind games.**

If you don't get to scriptures to know Him, it will crush you. **(Mark Twain's Nightmare)**

**The scriptures are not a guide for us to get to God, it's a revelation of God saving us!**

Luke 24.17: And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself".

In John 5.46 Jesus said "Moses wrote of me", and in John 12.41 Isaiah "saw his glory"! Every text is about Him! The NT writers applied just about every text to Him!

Jesus is the true and better:

Adam: Who passed the test in the garden so that his life gets imputed to us.

Abraham: Left his country to go to create a nation of the people of God.

Isaac: Who was offered up on the mount, and just as God said.

Passover Lamb: Who's blood covers those who stay under him.

Rock of Moses: Who was struck by the rod of God so that life could come to those.

David: Who took his own life in his hands, fought a giant and who victory is imputed.

Nehemiah: Who left the comfort of the Kings chambers to rebuild the city of God so that exiles could return.

Esther: Who not only said 'if I perish I perish' but who did perish, to appear before the King and save his people.

**Is your faith principles, or a person?**

## **What was the result of this doctrine?**

**It leads us into relationship with Jesus and changes our lives. This was only the first of many.. (Verse 42 – 47).**

The Kingship of Christ means we submit to Him and do what He says. We see that in Acts.

His bloody death breaks our hearts and gives us a love for Him. We see that in Acts.

His Sovereignty and goodness gives us peace when we watch loved ones suffer and die.

They knew him and would never deny Him (We must obey God rather than men.. they noticed these men had been with Jesus).

**True doctrine NEVER REMAINS THEORY. You are drawn to Him by His love. You see that you can come to Him because of His blood shed on the cross, you run to Him!**

**Read AW Tozer 'The Pursuit of God' page 13.**

Therefore we should devote ourselves to the Apostles teaching. We should read it and devour it, humbly, allowing it to judge us, letting it cut us, we come under the Word!

And then, we read it not in a rush, but meditating on it. Quietly, submissively, slowly. Chew slow bits, rather than just cramming three chapters in and feeling like you have done your bit for the day. Rather read three verses and let God explode their truth in your heart.

Let us pray.