



The Church - 2014 Series
Calvary Baptist Church
PART II: The Church and You
Text for Part II: Acts 2:42
August 31 and September 7, 2014



- We should have **joy** in going to the place where God is worshipped. (Ps. 122:1)
 - The church displays the **wisdom** of God. (Eph. 3:10)
 - The church is the place where **Christ** is glorified. (Ephesians 3:21)
 - **Acts 2:42** “continued steadfastly” – Gk., they moved forward earnestly.
- I. **A Place of Instruction - “Doctrine” (Acts 2:42; 6:1-2)**
- One of the lies Satan shouts at believers is that doctrine has to do with musty seminary halls, dreams and visions of future things, and ceaseless arguments between members of the clergy.
 - No, a thousand times no!
 - Doctrine simply means teaching.
 - And the vast majority of Christian teaching is that which helps us in our **daily** lives.
 - Acts 6:1-2 tells us that the major responsibility of the Apostles was to teach the Word of God.
 - If we go back to our text, we find that the first item on this list of practices of the early church was the presentation of doctrine.
 - They “continued steadfastly” in this, they moved forward earnestly in teaching the Word!
 - In good churches, the Bible is the focus of each service.
 - Thus, it is important for us to be there!
- A. **The church is the place where God has placed carefully selected, carefully screened, Holy Spirit gifted **leaders** to love me, guide me and watch over me.**
1. **God’s leaders are put through a high level of **scrutiny** before being placed in your local church. (Titus 1:6-9)**
 2. **God has saved, gifted, called and placed leaders in the **local** church to help me grow in the Lord. (Eph. 4:11-12)**

3. The work that they do is the **Lord's** work. (1 Cor. 16:10-11)
 4. Christian pastors provide vital spiritual **food** to God's sheep. (1 Peter 5:1-2)
 5. Christian pastors oversee the operation of the entire church so that an environment of spiritual **nurturing** is fostered. (1 Peter 5:2)
- B. The church is a place where I find help in keeping my life in **conformity** to the Word of God and the will of God.**
1. I cannot receive all of the spiritual food that God has for me **apart** from the church. (Acts 20:28)
 - Peter tells us that God has given us all that we need to be godly.
 - This includes the Bible, but is not **limited** to it.
 - It includes the Holy Spirit, the indwelling Christ, the example and admonition of other believers, and, of course, this includes the church!
 2. The church is a place that holds me **accountable** to live as I should! (Eph. 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 5:11-12)
 3. The church is a place where I can be **cleansed** by God's Word. (Eph. 5:26-27; Prov. 12:1)
 - When we come to the church, we hear the preaching, and suddenly we realize that our spiritual health is in **decline**.
 4. The church is the place where the erring child of God can be **restored** to usefulness. (Gal. 6:1)
 5. It is in the church that we can be **trained** to do evangelism, missions work, and counseling. (Eph. 4:11-12)
 - When we look into the Bible, we see that the church equips the saints for the **work** of the ministry. (Eph. 4:11-12)
 - This is the maturing of the saints.
 - This is one of the greatest benefits of the church.
 - It is a real reason that you should be here!

CONCLUSION:

- I don't know about you, but I still get **excited** about the **church**.