

## *Notes for Acts 2:14-46*

### ***I. Peter's Sermon/Explanation of Pentecost – Acts 2:14-41***

- A. "This is that..." – The 'peshet' of Joel 2:28ff
1. It is Christological – Yahweh is Jesus the Savior
  2. It introduces 'the last days' for 'afterwards'. In other words, Peter is announcing that the 'last days' have come.
    - This is a vital point in understanding NT eschatology.
    - See also 1 Corinthians 10 and Hebrews 1
- B. Graciousness of God – an Outpouring (a downpour, a deluge) and upon 'all flesh'
- C. The Language Sign is a form of Prophecy.
- D. The Cosmic Signs are **both** literal and emblematic of governmental upheaval (recall the events of Good Friday). Recall passages looked at last year in Isaiah 13:9; 34:1ff, and many others that show the 'collapsing universe' language as emblematic of nations falling (this in turn is based on the heavenly bodies as creational symbols in Genesis 1).
- E. The Life and Ministry of Christ
1. The 'anointed' man
  2. The crucifixion as public betrayal
  3. Resurrection (Note Psalm 16)
  4. Exaltation (Note Psalm 110) as Lord and Christ
    - Israel's 'idea' of resurrection – the end is here!
- F. Believing Response
1. Conviction ('Cut to the heart' – the sword of God slaying the wicked)
  2. Repentance and Baptism – Forgiveness of sins and the Gift of the Spirit
    - The promise (note Acts 1:4) unto children and to those yet distant
    - 'Effectual Call' – the resurrection voice of Christ in the voice of the preacher; the work of the Spirit giving life. Note John 5:29ff

### ***II. The First Apostolic Community – Acts 2:42- 47***

- A. The Right Response to the Gospel – Faith and Baptism.
- B. Characteristics of the Ancient Church
1. Submission to Apostolic Instruction (v.42)
    - a. 'persisting': diligent application and devotion
    - b. We too must be committed to the apostolic deposit
    - c. Didache – the pattern of truth about Jesus – oral and written (2 Thessalonians 2:15 – THE Tradition)

2. Commitment to Apostolic Community – Koinonia
    - a. Embodying the Trinity
    - b. The Community of Goods and Gifts – ‘to me for you’
    - c. NOT Communism, state enforced, coercive distribution of goods and gifts – simply another form of slavery.
    - d. Koinonia is love – action born of sacrificial commitment
      - “An angelic commonwealth” – Chrysostom
  
  3. Devotion to Apostolic Worship
    - a. “THE breaking of bread...THE prayers...”
      - Sacramentum and Mysterion
  
    - b. The worship of the early Church – Justin Martyr
      - Didache as well
    - c. Public and Private, Highly Regulated and Informal; there is a time and place for both.
  
  4. Dedication to Apostolic Witness
    - a. This was a growing community through witness and God’s ownership of that witness.
    - b. It was a Churchly Evangelism – no thought of salvation outside of the Church.
      - “Being saved...” – present participle, showing salvation as continuous process
    - c. Constant – “kept adding daily”. God’s constant and gracious work among and through his people.
      - Daily worship, and daily fruitfulness
- C. Stott’s summary:
1. Related to the apostles in submission
  2. Related to one another in love
  3. Related to God in worship
  4. Related to the world in outreach
- D. Four Ways of Measuring Church Health
1. Are we faithful to apostolic teaching and have submissive hearts to our fathers?
  2. Are we committed to showing sacrificial love in community?
  3. Are we earnestly and Biblically seeking God in worship that is sacramental, public, and private?
  4. Are we committed to reach out with the Gospel to those who do not yet know Christ?

The Church learning, loving, worshipping, and proclaiming