

Being a 1st Century Church in 2009: Devoted to ...
Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – Oct 25, 2009

Acts 2:36-47

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 **They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.** 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And **the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

Devoted: Continue steadfastly, earnest participation, to adhere closely, to persevere, to be constantly diligent

A 1st century church devotes itself to...

1. HEARING AND APPLYING GOD'S WORD (PREACHING)

v. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...

John 8:31-32

31 Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

A 1st century church devotes itself to...

2. CORPORATE FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP

v. 42 They devoted themselves ... to the fellowship...

Heb 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.

A 1st century church devotes itself to...

3. REMEMBERING THE LORD'S SACRIFICIAL DEATH

v. 42 They devoted themselves ... to the breaking of bread...

Luke 22:19

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

A 1st century church devotes itself to...

4. PRAYER

v. 42 They devoted themselves ... to prayer.

Col 4:2-4

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Wylie UMC Call to Prayer:

Wednesdays noon - prayer & fasting

A devoted church results in...

5. A GROWING CHURCH

v. 47 the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.