



Devoted - Worship

Key idea:

Deep delight in God is not primarily cultivated through isolated spiritual practices but through the devoted corporate worship described in Acts 2:42, where the gathered church receives the means of grace that fuel and sustain our personal walk with God.

Key text:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

Key points:

1. Acts 2:42 is not a description of private activities of individual believers but rather the practices of worship in the early Church.
2. As seen in Acts 2:42, Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:18, and other New Testament passages, as well as surviving records from the early centuries of the Church, Christian worship has always been structured around several key elements:
 - The Word of God - read, sung, and taught
 - Fellowship
 - The Lord's Table
 - Prayers - both spoken and sung

- NOTE: It is also clear that worship gatherings occurred on Sunday, also known as the Lord's Day, primarily to remember the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday morning.

3. Because of the idolatry of hyper-individualism, it will take real thought and planning to be devoted to gathering with the church for worship. There are at least four key tips to help do this:
 - DEVOTED to make gathering a HIGH priority
 - PREPARE before the meeting begins
 - MAKE time and space for the Spirit to work!
 - EXPECT God to work through the means of grace as we gather!

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you most from Acts 2:42? Why do you think Luke emphasized these four specific elements (teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayers)?
2. Bret mentioned that most early believers didn't own Bibles. How does this change your perspective on the importance of gathered worship and teaching?
3. Look at the context (Acts 2:42-47). What words or phrases emphasize the corporate nature of early Christian worship? Why is this significant?
4. In what ways might you have approached your faith like Christopher McCandless/Alexander Supertramp (the young man from "Into the Wild" who died in isolation in the Alaskan wilderness) — seeking spiritual growth in isolation rather than in community?
5. Rate yourself honestly: On a scale of 1-10, how devoted are you to weekly corporate worship? What factors influence your answer?
6. Which of the four elements of worship (Word, fellowship, Lord's Table, prayer) do you tend to undervalue? Why might that be?
7. Bret highlighted that Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18 show that singing is a means of Word and prayer in worship gatherings. Have you thought of our singing in this way? How might you grow in participation in worship through song?
8. How has our hyper-individualistic culture shaped your view of church attendance and corporate worship? Can you identify specific ways this shows up in your thinking?
9. Bret stated: "The New Testament knows NOTHING of a privatized, 'me and Jesus' spirituality." How does this statement challenge or confirm your understanding of the Christian life?

10. What are the biggest obstacles in your life that compete with devoted participation in corporate worship? (sports schedules, work, travel, convenience, etc.)
11. Look at the four key tips in key point 3. What specific, practical changes could you make this week to better prepare your heart for Sunday worship?

For Further Study:

For other teachings that look at the importance of and pattern for weekly worship, you may look at the following teachings:

[The Church - The Community of Worship](#)

[Fed and Formed By the Word of God](#)