PRE-INTRO TO JOHN

**THE APOSTLES’ TEACHING**

**Acts 2:41–47 (NKJV)** **41**Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them.* **42**And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **43**Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44**Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **45**and sold their possessions and goods, and divide them among all, as anyone had need. **46**So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47**praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

**FOUR VALUES THAT THE EARLY CHURCH WAS DEVOTED TO, WHICH CAUSED THEM TO SEE PEOPLE BEING SAVED DAILY:**

1. **The Apostles’ Teaching**
2. **Fellowship**
3. **The Breaking of Bread**
4. **Prayers**

**EXCERPTS FROM BBST LESSON #5 ABOUT “THE APOSTLES’ TEACHING”:**

Now, each of these four devotions were important and non-negotiable values of the early church, however, one of them was clearly—and by far—the most important. Only through “the apostles’ teaching” could the church have learned these values. This is why Jesus spent so much time with His apostles. And this is why the apostles spent so much time teaching all the believers in their church.

We must remember that Jesus personally and intentionally mentored the apostles for two and a half years. Using the Old Testament, He taught and trained them how believers should live in New Testament times. Think about that. Since the New Testament had not yet been written, the apostles were the only people on earth who knew how to live as New Testament believers. And now that the Holy Spirit had been poured out, the apostles could teach and train every new believer to live the New Testament, Spirit-empowered life that Jesus lived and taught. No wonder the early church was so powerful.

You may be thinking, “But the apostles are not here to teach us,” and that’s true. However, before they died the Holy Spirit inspired apostles such as Peter, John, Matthew, Mark, James, Jude and Paul to accurately write “the apostles’ teaching.” It’s called the “New Testament.” And just as Jesus spent extra time with His apostles, who then taught the early church, all churches today should also have teachers who spend extra time studying God’s Word to help the church accurately learn from and apply it.

**2 Timothy 3:16–4:3 (ESV)** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. **4:1** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **3** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

**2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV)** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**NEXT WEEK PASTOR JERRY WILL DO SOMETHING HE’S NEVER FELT LED TO DO BEFORE … TO TEACH A BOOK OF THE BIBLE VERSE BY VERSE … AND HE’LL LIKELY DO THIS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER PASTORS**

**DR. STEVE SCHELL SAYS THAT HE BELIEVES THE GOSPEL OF JOHN MAY BE THE MOST PROFOUND BOOK IN THE WORLD**

**NEXT WEEK PASTOR JERRY WILL GIVE SOME INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK, BUT HERE ARE A FEW THINGS NOW**

1. **Matthew began his Gospel with the genealogy that led to Jesus … Mark began his Gospel with the forerunner to Jesus, John the Baptist … and Luke began his with the story of John the Baptist’s parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth … BUT JOHN … different than any of the others … began his Gospel telling us who Jesus REALLY is … Saying,** *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1 (ESV).* **It’s like the synoptics tell us what Jesus did … John tells us who Jesus IS.**
2. **The Gospel of John only lists about 8 miracles … but six of them are not found in the synoptics**
3. **John records important detailed conversations with people not found in other Gospels, such as Nicodemus, the woman at the well, Martha, Mary Magdalene, and Peter.**
4. **And over 1/3 of John focuses on the last week of Jesus’ life.**
5. **John is also the only apostle to not be martyred, though they did try to kill him.**

**MY QUESTION … WILL YOU BE DEVOTED TO THE APOSTLE’S TEACHING?**