

The Epistles - Part 1

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. Review
 - a. The early church gathered together for prayer, preaching, & communion (Acts 20:7)
 - b. The early church faced persecution (Acts 8:1)
 - c. The early church grew daily (Acts 16:5)
2. The Epistles - As the apostles made converts and started churches around the world they wrote letters to them when they could not be with them.
 - a. They contain some of the most compelling truths applicable to churches and Christians today: Doctrine, warnings against false teachers, encouragement through tough circumstances, & the moral character and conduct expected of Christians.
3. Doctrinal Teachings of Christ and the Apostles
 - a. The Way of Salvation (Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-13; Colossians 1:14)
1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might **bring us** to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:
 - b. Eternal Security (Romans 8:1, Romans 8:38-39)
1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
 - c. The Deity of Christ (Philippians 2:6; 1 Peter 2:7-8)
Colossians 1:16-17 For by him were all things **created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: (17) And he is before all things, and by him all things **consist**.
 - d. The Inerrancy of Scripture (2 Peter 1:20-21)
2 Timothy 3:16 All **scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
 - e. The Rapture (1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 5:2)
1Th 4:16-18 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (18)
Wherefore comfort one another with these words.
 - f. Separation from the World (Romans 13:12; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:9)
1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the **world**. If any man love the world, the **love** of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the **pride** of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.
4. Memory Verses: Last Week **Acts 2:1**; This Week **Acts 2:42**

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