

A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Today we consider one of the most important doctrines of the New Testament.
- All New Testament doctrines are important but some are foundational.
- So what might that doctrine be?

- **Acts 2:47**

- **And the**

- **Lord added**

- **to the church daily
such as should be
saved.**

- **There is a lot of confusion** regarding the church in today's world.
 - Some think it is **optional**.
 - Others think it is **unimportant**.
- Let the **scriptures** answer!

- **Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said what shall we do?"**
(Acts 2:37 RSV)
- Now, why would this question be asked?
 - What answer did Peter give in response?

- The question asked was in conviction of heart.
- The audience became aware of their sins.
 - Acts 2:37

Now when they heard this,
they were
pierced to the heart
and said
What shall we do,....?

- This is one of life's **most critical questions.**
- Now, **why** would that be?
- Again, let the **Bible** answer that question.

- **Matthew 7:13**

“Enter in by the **narrow gate**; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and **many** are those who enter in by it.

- **7:14** How narrow is the gate, and restricted is the way that leads to life! **Few** are those who find it.

(WEB)

- **Luke 13:24**

**"Do your best
to go in through
the narrow door;
because**

**many people
will surely try to go in
but will not be able.**

- **1 Peter 3:20**

... in the days of Noah,
while the ark was a preparing,
wherein few, that is,

eight souls
were saved by water.

- **3:21** The like figure
whereunto even
baptism
now save us

- Now, back to our illustration.

- Luke 13:24

**"Do your best to go in
through the narrow door;
because**

**many people
will surely try to go in
but will not be able.**

- **Luke 13:25**

**The master of the house will get up
and close the door;**

- **then when you stand outside and
begin to knock on the door and say,**

- **'Open the door for us, sir!'**

- **he will answer you,**

- **'I don't know you!'**

- **Luke 13:26**

Then you will answer,

- 'We ate and drank with you;
 - you taught in our town!'
- 13:27 But he will say again,
 - 'I don't know where you come from.
 - Get away from me, all you wicked people!'

- **Luke 13:28**

**How you will cry and gnash
your teeth when you see
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and all the prophets
in the Kingdom of God,
while you are thrown out!**

• Are

you

listening?

- **Matthew 7:22**

Many will say to me in that day,
Lord, Lord, did we not **prophesy**
by thy name, and by thy name
cast out devils,
and by thy name
do many mighty works?

- **7:23** And then will I profess unto
them, I never knew you:
depart from me,
you that work iniquity.

- The Apostle Paul referred to Jesus Christ as:

- 1 Timothy 6:15

.... who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

- What is the obligation of subjects to Kings and Potentates?
 - Obedience!
- We find that illustrated in
 - The Parable of the Wedding Feast
(**Matthew 22**)

- **Matthew 22:11**

"But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.

- **22:12** And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

- **22:13** Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- **22:14** For many are called, but few are chosen."

- **Luke 6:46**

**"Why do you call me Lord
but don't do
what I tell you?"**

- **6:47** **"I will show you what
everyone who comes to me,
hears what I say, and obeys
it is like.**

- **Luke 6:48**

He is like a person who dug down to bedrock to lay the foundation of his home.

- **When a flood came, the floodwaters pushed against that house.**
- **But the house couldn't be washed away because it had a good foundation.**

- **Luke 6:49**

The person who hears what I say but doesn't obey it is like someone who built a house on the ground without any foundation.

- **The floodwaters pushed against it, and that house quickly collapsed and was destroyed."**

(God's Word Version)

- **Another illustration**
of the church
is presented in scriptures.
- That being that the church
is pictured as the
bride of Christ.
- Let's take a look at it.

- **Ephesians 5:25-27 ESV**
- **Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,**
 - **that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,**
 - **so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.**

- Since Christ died for the church is it respectful to reject it's importance?
- Can one insult that for which Christ died without penalty?

- **Acts 20:28** (KJV)
- **Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,**
- **to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**
- The church is a **blood** bought institution.
 - **How dare we respect it!**

- If we love Christ,
we will obey his commands

- **1 John 2:3-4 NKJV**

- **Now by this we know
that we know Him,
if we keep His commandments.**

- {4} **He who says,
"I know Him," and
does not keep His commandments,
• is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

- Many people run to the book of Romans to justify a “faith only” doctrine.
- The Bible does mention “faith only”!
- However it is preceded by the word “NOT”.
 - James 2:24
You see then how that by works a man is justified, and NOT by faith only.

- There is no example of anyone being saved just because they were nice people.
- No one saved without obedience to the command of Christ.
- Not one example in all of the New Testament.

- As mentioned in a previous lesson
“calling on the name of the Lord”
involved more than saying
“Lord Jesus, come into my heart”
 - Or something similar.
 - A prime example is
Cornelius
in
Acts Chapter 10.

- **Acts 10:1**

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, ...

- **10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.**

- Acts 10:33

Now therefore are
we all here present
before God,

- to hear all things
- that are commanded
of God.

- If “**Believing**” alone is enough to save anyone, then the **demons** will be saved.
- **James 2:19**
**You believe that there is one God.
That's fine!**
- **The demons also believe that, and they tremble with fear.**

- At a ministers meeting many years ago I heard a man make the following comment:

- *“I don’t know much about the book, but I know the author very well.”*

- John 5:39

Jesus said:

Search the scriptures...

• Are

You

listening?

- 'AND THE LORD ADDED'
- Notice carefully, that when one was baptized, the Lord automatically added them to the Church.
- We don't find the early Church or the apostles "voting" on potential candidates for membership.
 - We don't find anyone "joining" the church.
 - It is not a social club.
 - It is the "Bride of Christ."

• Literally speaking,

• Acts 2:47

” And the Lord added
to the church

” those that were
being saved”

- The term
“in Christ”
is used
77 times in **78 verses**
in the Bible.

- The only way to be in Christ
is found in
Romans 6:3

**Know ye not, that so many of us
as were baptized into Jesus Christ
were baptized into his death?**

- The fact that the Lord added the saved to the Church, **justifies two conclusions:**

- **# 1** That those added are **entitled to membership** in the Church the moment they are pardoned;

- **# 2** That to obtain pardon one must be

“added to the church” .

- Literally speaking,
”those that were being saved”.

- 2 Corinthians 2:15

For we are like a
sweet-smelling incense
offered by Christ to God,
which spreads among those
who are being saved and
those who are being lost.

- The church
to some
is life.
- To others
it is death.
- One is either
In or Out!

- Paul's advice to young Timothy:
 - 1 Timothy 4:16
Take heed unto yourself,
and unto the doctrine;
 - continue in them:
- for in doing this you shall both
save yourself,
- and them that hear you.

- Jesus “yes”,
the church “no”.

- Is that possible
considering the following:

- Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.”

- **1 Timothy 4:16**

**Take heed unto yourself,
and unto the doctrine;
continue in them: for in
doing this you shall both
save yourself,
and them that hear you.**

- Acts 2:47

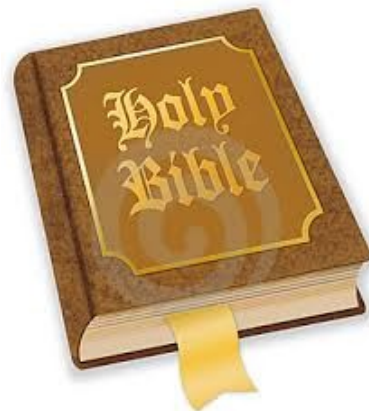
And the Lord
added to them
day by day those
that were
being saved.

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



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