

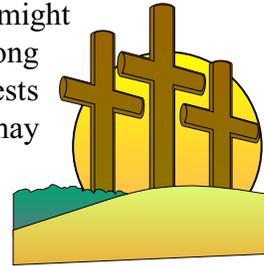
Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1002

May 25, 2014

First Century Christianity

To many, the words, “Would I fit in?” might suggest the idea of being accepted among others. To a teenager it possibly suggests being popular at school. To an adult, it may mean being active socially. Let us lay aside the idea of “fitting in” among our peers and consider the thought, “Would I fit in among the Christians of the first century?” If I should awaken tomorrow to find myself numbered among those on the day of Pentecost, would I be right at home among them? Let us consider some points concerning those in Acts 2 before they became Christians as well as afterwards.



1. **Would I be pricked in my heart?** When confronted with the deed they had done, they were pricked in their hearts. Would I have reacted the same way? If I am the type of person who takes offense when someone confronts me with my wrongs, or refuses to obey the invitation when I know I should, then I would not have been pricked as they were. No, I would not fit in among them.

2. **Would I have been among those to cry out, “What shall we do?”** Upon realizing they were in the wrong, they were interested enough to ask what to do. If I hear the plan of salvation each worship service, and never do anything about my spiritual situation, then I would not have been interested enough to ask what to do. No, I would not fit in among them.

3. **Would I gladly receive the word?** Have we ever considered that many of them possibly did not know what Peter’s answer was going to be when they asked what to do to be saved. They possibly thought Peter was going to tell them they must be killed to compensate for their deed. After all, they were very familiar with “an eye for an eye.” One can almost hear the sigh of relief going out over the crowd gathered there as Peter uttered, “*Repent and be baptized . . .*” The terms are still the same nearly two millennia later. They were glad to receive such simple terms. If I refuse to repent and be baptized today, then I would not have gladly received the word then. I would not fit in among them.

4. **Would I continue steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine?** They adhered to the doctrine delivered to them by the apostles. If I am one who takes liberties with the word of God, changing it to suit my own needs, or to comfort my mind, I would not have continued steadfastly in the doctrine. I would not fit in among them.

5. **Would I continue steadfastly in fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers?** I suppose the Christians of the first century loved to be with one another. They probably anxiously awaited every opportunity to be together. They did not take lightly the partaking of the Lord’s Supper. They continued in their prayers. If I am one who does not enjoy fellowship with the saints, or I am not bothered at missing the Lord’s Supper or any other act of worship, or can even go a full day without talking to the Lord in prayer, then I would not fit in among them.

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Continue to remember **Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jean Coffey & Vicki McDaniel.**

—Congratulations to **Kelsey Pedigo** who graduates from Hart County High this Friday night, May 30, and to **Makayla Worth** who graduates from Central Hardin on June 7.



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6. **Would I sell my goods and give them to those in need?** They were willing to use what they had been blessed with in order to help the needy. Am I the type of person who hoards practically every penny in order to consume it upon my personal wants? Do I fail to use the material possessions I have to the glory of God? If so, then I would not fit in among them.

7. **Would I continue daily in the temple?** They were not only willing to meet upon the first day of the week, they came together every day. Out of 168 hours each week, we spend only four or five in an actual organized period of worship. If I complain about Sunday night and Wednesday night, and have the attitude, “Do I have to come?”, then I would not fit in among them.

The Christians of the first century were by no means perfect, but I sometimes feel they tried a lot harder than so many Christians of today. Ponder the question, “Would I fit in among the first century Christians?” Let us live our lives in such a way, that if we should awaken tomorrow among the first century Christians, we would fit right in among them.

—Marty Edwards ❖

Sunday, May 18, 2014		
Classes	15	Acts 26:1-15
Preaching	16	Deuteronomy 30 (The Word of God is Near)
Contribution	\$412.00	
Evening	20	Job 36:1-33
Wednesday, May 21, 2014		
Classes	20	II Samuel 17:1-29

Bible Quiz

What was Absalom riding upon when he got caught in an oak?

Last Week’s Answer— bunches of raisins (II Samuel 16:1)



Hide not your talents, they for use were made.
What’s a sundial in the shade?

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)