



Week 6
May 6-12, 2018

"Apostles' Teaching"

Sunday

Acts 2:42 *The disciples devoted themselves to... the apostles' teaching...*

This week we focus on the Apostles' teaching.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Apostle Paul writing to Timothy @ 1 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIV)

Prayer: Open wide the window of our spirits, O Lord, and fill us full of light; open wide the door of our hearts, that we may receive and entertain thee with all our powers of adoration and love. Amen.

Christina G. Rossetti, England, 19th century.

Monday

John 1:19-34

Those who enter ministry with Jesus, witness his work and then share what they saw, are the Apostles. John the Baptist was not an Apostle, but oh! the things he saw!

John the Baptist plays a critical prophetic role. The Old Testament prophets foresaw a day when God would save his people and establish his rule on earth. John the Baptist is the one who changed the verb tense from future to present. John the Baptist declares, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (v. 29). He makes a present announcement. The time is now! The Savior is here!

John the Baptist was not concerned to please the priests, Levites, king or anyone else. He recognized his Savior.

Prayer: Dear Lamb of God, thank you for taking away the sins of the world, as well as my own. Thank you for the testimony of eyewitnesses such as John the Baptist that have been preserved and passed on to us. Thank you that you are present now. Be my life guide and help me recognize you. Amen.

Tuesday

Luke 24:25-27

Only a few miles separate Jerusalem from Emmaus. The Emmaus travelers were, however, on a longer journey than they imagined. Meeting the risen Lord, the two travelers journeyed from confusion and discouragement to faith and hope. The distance between these destinations is immeasurable.

The stories and teaching of the One who leads people through this journey comprise the teaching of the Apostles.

In His presence, applying Scripture, and in a community of at least two, Jesus opened the Scripture to the sojourners and explained it to them. God transformed their souls.

Where are you on the journey with Jesus?

Prayer: You are the One who meets us along the road to faith and hope. Open my eyes so I will see the truth you reveal to us. Thank you for making yourself known. Amen.

Wednesday

Mark 15:40-41

Many of the women in Jesus' constituency were supporting him throughout His earthly ministry. They have much to share and teach. Yet, most of what they would offer us has been lost. Still, as this text makes clear, their love, service and other contributions were valued and exemplary.

Prayer: God of love, help us eagerly serve you and love you even when others may not notice or remember what we do. Amen.

Thursday

Matthew 28:18-20

With all the authority of heaven Jesus commands his disciples to make more and more disciples by baptizing and teaching them all he had taught them. That is what Apostles do: Teach others all that Jesus teaches them.

What might be different in your daily schedule if you devoted yourself to the Apostles' teaching? If making disciples were prioritized?

Prayer: Jesus, show me/us people I/we can help experience who you are. And then send me/us to them with your authority and power. Amen.

Friday

2 Timothy 3:15-17; Acts 2:42-47

Whether it be the stars at sea or highway road signs, voyagers need markers to serve as guides along the way. Christians generally rely on four markers: Scripture, tradition, experience and reason. Of these four, Scripture is considered primary.

If we imagine a road sign representing Scripture and a smartphone GPS representing the other three sources, which would we follow if they did not point in the same direction? Saying that Scripture is primary means we would follow the road sign, that we trust Scripture more than the others.

Why treat Scripture with such deference? First, many texts, such as the two we read today, state the significance of Scripture. Second, tradition, experience and reason change significantly from century to century, year to year or person to person. Third, Scripture remains constant and reliable. It is the time-tested written record of God's self-revelation. Therefore, Scripture is authoritative.

Many issues challenging our faith and our churches today result from valuing sources other than Scripture so highly that they are allowed to veto teaching found in Scripture.

The Apostles' teaching, like Jesus', fulfilled what was written in the Scripture and the prophets. The Apostles teaching includes news from heaven and is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Word of God, please free me to serve you, know you, share you, and experience you through your teaching. Amen.

Saturday

Read one of the Epistles (letters in the New Testament). Read it as if it were written to you and your church.

What does Jesus do or reveal in your life as you read His word?

The shaping influence of His word may be immediate or longer term.

Prayer: I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people... Amen.

The Apostle Paul @ Ephesians 1:17-18 (NIV)