

Greenvine Baptist Church
Newsletter
December 27, 2021

When you are here you are Home



New Years Resolutions. I don't know that I have ever made one. While growing up, I remember hearing how often people could not keep them because it was always something that they kinda wanted to do, but they were not strong enough or mindful enough to fulfill what they had resolved to do or not do. My parents often told us kids not to make rash statements and make promises or oaths that we couldn't possibly keep. No New Years Resolutions for me. However, there is the truth that we should always be bettering ourselves and growing in our spiritual lives. Growth is a part of Christian living. Unless there is a mental or physical or emotional impairment, we should be growing. Peter writes, "But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; to Him be honor and glory forever, Amen." Growth is an expectation of our salvation and redemption. In thinking about the New Year, 2022. First of all can it possibly already be here. Not just the day, but the year!! The Deacons and I have been thinking about many aspects of the work here at Greenvine Church. I can tell you to rest assured that they have your best interest in mind as well as desiring to follow the Word of God always. I told them in this type of thinking, I often was reminded of Acts 2: 42. This verse follows Peter's best sermon ever. The Holy Spirit had arrived at Pentecost and began dwelling in the lives of believers on that day. Therefore, that is the day that the church universal was first formed. So Peter gets up and speaks a great sermon on what those Jewish people who were responsible for crucifying Christ should be doing. He told them in particular that repentance was so very important. Oh, by the way, only 3000 people accepted Christ as their personal Savior that day. Can you even imagine that! Then Luke, the writer of the book of Acts adds an editorial. The verse that I am so interested in. Verse 42 says, "They devoted themselves to the Apostle's teaching, to breaking of bread, to fellowship and to prayers." Luke recognizes a distinct element that takes place within that young body of Christ, the Church. The language in the King James is, "they steadfastly devoted themselves." There is no doubt in the language and words that Luke uses that early, first generation followers of Jesus, that they loved doing what I usually call, "The Big 4." It is what the first Christians were all about. It was the call to follow Jesus more dearly and with extreme energy and strength. I will go over each of them, explain them and make some application for our use today.

1 The Apostles' Doctrine or Teaching - Remember, those people did not have the Bible like we do now. They only had the stories and lessons that the Apostles were sharing with them. You remember in Matthew and Mark a section called, "The Sermon on the Mount." This is where Jesus took the twelve aside and taught them those things that He wished that they would remember and teach others. We know this because when He ascended back to heaven, He told them, "Go and make disciples." Jesus intended that those 12 men would take those truths that He had been

teaching them and share them with whomever they came into contact with. He told them to make disciples wherever they went....Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth. This is how the message of Christ was spread in those days after Christ left this earth. He gave the charge to teach others to the 12 and empowered them to do just that. Our text says that those early followers of Jesus were devoted to those teachings. We are so fortunate to have the written Word of God that those early writers put down on paper, preserved by the Holy Spirit, and intact for us today. We have the written Apostle's teaching. We have it on tapes. We have it on MP3 digital format. You can download it on your phone. You can get it almost anywhere now. So many offerings of the Bible in so many languages. I think that is why I like the ministry that we support so well, Faith Comes By Hearing. They are constantly releasing versions of the Bible in languages where there was never even a written alphabet. Some of those languages have never had a written out language. We can read or listen to God's Word any time of the day. Any where we are at the time, and as many times as we wish. I would encourage you to "read the Bible in a year." There are even Bibles that you can purchase or get on your devices to have it with you all the time. Take advantage of the great resource that we have in the Bible.

2 Breaking of Bread - Simply said, Communion. The Lord's Supper. The Remembrance Feast. Many titles to represent what we do when we partake of the bread and the cup that Jesus left for us to remind us of His sacrifice for us at Calvary. Christ instituted it with the 12 when they were together at the last Passover that they celebrated together. He took the left over bread that clearly spoke of the Second Person of the Trinity being separated from the other Two for a while, and then being brought back to reunite the Triune God. During the Passover feast or Seder, that piece of bread is with three and taken out and hidden for the children to find and be rewarded after the meal. He said that it represented His body broken for us. We take advantage of that bread and consume it. Making it a part of who we are. Then He took the leftover wine that never gets drank and proclaims that it is represented His blood shed on the Cross for the remission of our sins. He encouraged the 12 to drink it as well and make it a part of their being. He then said, "As often as you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you proclaim my death, until I return." Every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we are proclaiming what He did for us. Proclaiming to ourselves. Proclaiming to anyone witnessing us partaking. Proclaiming to one another. Proclaiming to the deamons themselves. "We belong to Christ." Maybe we should have Communion more often than once a month. We will discuss that as well, later. At any rate, the early believers were in love with communion like this.

3 Fellowship - We do a great job with this one at Greenvine. Fellowship simply means "getting together and visiting, encouraging and helping one another." The early followers got together often to simply be a part of each others lives and grow, live and learn with each other and help one another even in daily tasks and circumstances. When we get together on Sunday Mornings, we often have to interrupt the fellowship that is going on in order to start our songs together. That is okay with me, however, some of our visitors are not used to talking while the songs are beginning. It is great to get together. Our Pot-Luck Meals are a tremendous blessing. Visiting and catching up on each others lives while having a meal together. I especially enjoyed our breakfast earlier in this month. Fellowship. Get togethers. Maybe we can re-enstate movie night and concerts now that the pandemic is ebbing. At least I think it is ebbing.

4 Prayer - We have gone over this subject so many times together. Such an important aspect of our lives as followers of Christ. Paul writes, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God will guard your heart in Christ Jesus." He also writes, "Pray without ceasing." The thought here is that we always find ourselves praying. Calling upon the Father in Jesus' Name and telling Him everything that is going on. Not to inform Him, but to tell Him that we trust Him in all circumstances.

Pray. Then when you're finished praying, pray again. I love hearing y'all praying on Sunday mornings. I encourage you to pray in public. Pray privately and pray with your family. As my dad used to say, "Pray for me. I need the prayer and you need the practice." Big 4. Bringing it to our lives here in Greenvine. Resolutions? No, simply following the lead of Christ, His disciples and the early followers of Jesus. As the Nike commercial says, "Just Do It!!!" Love and mercy to you all at the beginning of this new year. Blessings upon all. Karen and I are looking forward to 2022 with you. Amen

Upcoming Events

Bible Study

We will continue our study of Timothy on Wednesday January 5 @ 6pm

Greenvine Girl's of Grace

Tuesday January 11 @ 6pm

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday January 26 @ 7am

Prayer Requests

All our families that will be travelling this holiday season to be with loved ones.

Pray for all of those in our church that have been sick.

Jack and Karen's Nephew – He is on meds and doing better

Karen – Praise that her wrist is doing better and that she continues to heal. She is supposed to start back to work in January.

Debbie Reed's granddaughter Brittany and husband Raymond lost their baby at 10 weeks. Please pray for comfort for this family.

Billy Montgomery as he heals from a quadruple by-pass

Raymond Anderson has not been feeling well. Please pray for healing.

Please remember the Chapdelaine family in the loss of Robert. Pray for Stacy (Rob's Wife) as she is struggling with this loss. Stacy has decided to move back to Montana where her and Robert's family are. Pray for peace during this move.

Debbie Reed – Recovering from injection in her back

Donna Richardson – Recovering from leg amputation. She has been moved to rehab and hopes to go home for Christmas

Lois – Friend of the Rutlands – Fell and hit her head. She is feeling better. Please pray for continued healing

Ricky Eckert recovering from a leg amputation.

Neal Lampe has come home. Please pray for continued healing and support for this family

Carolyn Cox -Pray for continued healing

Geri Smart's daughter has had her last chemo treatment. Pray for continued healing

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Becky's granddaughter recovering from pneumonia and other health issues .

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Pulliam's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Brayden Lopez - Mental and Spiritual health

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues - Please remember Bob's family in the loss of his brother

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Lee Ehring's brother, Bill Hoot, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please pray for healing as he begins his treatment

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse