

## Support Your Local Church

---

by Sean P. Cavender

After you read of the New Testament church and its initial beginnings, you really must appreciate the attitudes, commitment and work of the church. The church began on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, where the apostles proclaimed the gospel of the Lord. Three thousand souls were baptized for the remission of sins that day and they were added to the church of Christ (Acts 2:41, 47). In Acts 2, the section which you can read about the start of the church, Acts 2:41-47, has a nice summation of what the church practiced. In verse 42, *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”* It is remarkable to read of the association and endeavors of the early first century church throughout the book of Acts. It is encouraging to any reader.

In today’s 21st century with all of the advantages that come with living in the United States of America and a first world country, you would almost expect the church to easily surpass the first century church in its vibrancy and vitality. Yet, many churches are failing and not having the kind of success one might expect. Why? Perhaps it is that we are not committed to faithfully serving the Lord like the first century church was.

Many Christians do not know how to show support for their local church. They appear to think that they can show up a few times a week, ignore problems, maintain the grounds of the church building, sing a few songs, pray a few prayers, partake of the Lord’s Supper, contribute what leftover change they might have in their pocket and shake everyone’s hand and then go home. Is that supporting the local church and her work? If we think it is then we are seriously misguided.

The early church was committed to teaching and doctrine. This is not suggesting that they hired a preacher to do all the teaching for them, or to them. Those who were baptized, *“they”* continued in the apostles’ doctrine (Acts 2:41, 42). Christians were focused on teaching. Today we live in a world where we can find nearly anything on Google, yet we struggle to find teachers for Bible classes. Do we really think we are supporting the local church if we do not find ways to be involved in the teaching in the church?

Another description of the first century church was they *“had all things common”* (Acts 2:44). They shared what they owned. To share something shows a close association with another person. Do you typically share your home or other keepsakes with a complete and total stranger? Probably not. In the church, we need to know people. We do not merely share a pew with fellow Christians. We share a faith and common hope. Is it too much trouble to visit with one another? Or are we more worried about what we are having for lunch or what chores we have to accomplish?

We must learn how to support the local church. Let’s focus on our commitment and service to the church now!

— via [The Bald Knob Builder](#)  
Bald Knob, Arkansas  
volume 1, Issue 19

314502