



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The Continual Communion of the Church in the Capitol

JANUARY 23, 2014

David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

### Acts 2:42-47

*“And they constantly were continuing steadfastly in the teaching of the Apostles and the fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers. 43) And fear was continuously coming to every soul. And many wonders and signs were occurring through the Apostles. 44) And all the believers were constantly having all things common together. 45) And properties and possessions they were continually selling and constantly distributing to all, as anyone had need. 46) Even from day to day they were continuing steadfastly with one mind in the temple and constantly breaking bread from house to house, they continually shared their food in gladness and generosity of heart. 47) Constantly praising God and continually having favor with all the people. And the Lord, day by day, constantly added together those being saved.”*

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“THIS WAS REALLY A CHURCH, NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS. ITS LIFE WAS COMPLETELY DEFINED BY THE DEVOTION TO THOSE SPIRITUAL DUTIES WHICH MAKE UP THE UNIQUE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH. NOTHING OUTSIDE THE LIVING LORD, THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD DEFINE THE LIFE FOR THE CHURCH. THIS CHURCH, THOUGH NOT HAVING ANY CULTURAL ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS, NO WORLDLY STRATEGIES, WAS STILL ENDOWED WITH EVERY NECESSARY COMPONENT FOR ACCOMPLISHING THE PURPOSES OF ITS LORD. THE CHURCH WILL STILL BE EFFECTIVE IN BRINGING SINNERS TO CHRIST WHEN IT MANIFESTS THE SAME KEY ELEMENTS OF SPIRITUAL DUTY THAT MARKED THIS FIRST FELLOWSHIP.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

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What four things were the object of their devotion? Why the fear? Are signs and wonders the focus? Was this Communism? Would you call this “real love”? What had double emphasis?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > JANUARY 30: ACTS 3:1-10 *A MIRACLE TO CONFIRM GOD'S WORD IN THEIR CAPITOL*
- > FEBRUARY 6: ACTS 3:12-18 *THE SECOND SERMON IN THE CAPITAL: THE RISEN PRINCE OF LIFE*

It had been a busy day for the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Suddenly at 9:00 AM the capital city had been alerted and gathered by the roar sounding like a fierce tornado as the Holy Spirit came upon those who were “*continuing steadfastly*” in prayer. Then the truth was being proclaimed in multiple languages so clearly that they probably formed groups of the same language to hear. Then Peter said that what they were experiencing had been prophesied long ago in Joel as the “*LAST DAYS*” when God would “*POUR FORTH*” His “*SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND.*” That day would be characterized by the opportunity to call “*ON THE NAME OF THE LORD*” to “*BE SAVED.*” Then Peter called them to the witness stand and proved to them that though they had murdered their Messiah, even nailing him to a cursed cross, yet He had been in control all along and had fulfilled specific Scriptural prophecies in His death, resurrection and ascension so that He now had absolute authority at the right hand of the Father. The convicted Jews cried out, “*What shall we do?*” Peter responded, “*Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*” With powerful words he exhorted them that they could still claim the promise of salvation and that they must “*Be saved from this perverse generation!*” Suddenly 3000 were saved and the Apostles must have spent the remainder of the day joyfully baptizing them all.

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“THE WORKS THAT I DO SHALL HE DO ALSO;  
AND GREATER WORKS THAN THESE SHALL HE DO;  
BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER.”

JOHN 14:12

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### BIBLE STUDIES

- THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
- THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
- THURSDAY @ 4:30 PM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB ROOM 312 SENATOR CARRICO’S OFFICE

# Virginia

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### I. THEIR PERSISTENT PRIORITIES ACTS 2:42-43

This may be the most action packed passage in the New Testament! Every participle throughout is present tense and every verb is imperfect tense—all screaming continuous action. That's sixteen continual emphasis on eighteen constant actions with over three thousand people marching in joyful cadence with one another! There are four priorities wisely pursued in this great nursery for new believers. The first priority is necessary for learning all the priorities of their new family in Christ, the Church. They "*constantly were continuing steadfastly in the teaching of the Apostles.*" They had to know what their new King wanted them to do. This teaching included the Old Testament Scriptures as well as the teachings of Christ from His own authoritative Apostles. Such today would include the whole Bible. This teaching instructed them in all of their priorities: "*the Apostles doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers.*" Their continual listening to the truth, conversations together, sharing in meals, and partnership in prayer demonstrated such a powerful witness that "*fear was continuously coming to every soul.*" This complete transformation of the 3000 told others of Christ's rule in their lives, as well as the "*many signs and wonders*" done through the Apostles.

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**"SO STRIKING AND MANIFEST WAS THE POWER OF GOD ON THIS OCCASION THAT IT SILENCED ALL CLAMORS AND PRODUCED A GENERAL VENERATION AND AWE."**  
ALBERT BARNES

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### II. THEIR PASSIONATE PHILANTHROPY ACTS 2:44-47A

Their intense joy in their privilege of serving their King continually, 24/7, by learning: His Word through the Apostles, His people through fellowship and meals, and His delight to fulfill the desires of their heart in prayer,

moved them to demonstrate to one another the generous love they experienced from Christ. Suddenly the joyful repentance of "*all*" these Jews was made complete as they "*were constantly having all things common together.*" This sharing of all things in common is not taught, expected or even hinted by the Apostles (Acts 5:4). Their exuberant hearts are so full of gratitude to God that it overflows in a voluntary generosity where they lovingly seem to be seeking to exceed one another in their gracious giving to one another to meet each other's needs. They were "*continually selling*" their "*properties*" (large assets) and their "*possessions*" (existence assets) and "*constantly distributing to all, as anyone had need.*" Not a single need could escape their loving attention! Thus they continually shared five things daily: 1) "*continuing steadfastly with one mind in the temple,*" 2) "*constantly breaking bread from house to house,*" 3) "*food,*" 4) "*constantly praising God*" and 5) "*continually having favor with all the people.*"

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**"THE EARLY CHRISTIANS SHARED THEIR POSSESSIONS, NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE COMMUNISTS OR SOCIALISTS—NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE FORCED TO SHARE THEIR THINGS—BUT FOR A FAR BETTER REASON. THEY SHARED THEIR GOODS BECAUSE THEY WERE GENEROUS, AND THEY WERE GENEROUS BECAUSE THEY HAD LEARNED THEIR GENEROSITY FROM GOD."**  
JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

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### III. THEIR POWERFUL PROGRESS ACTS 2:47B

How pleased was "*The Lord*" (Jesus Christ from heaven), that He "*constantly added together those being saved.*"

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**"A VIBRANT COMMUNITY EXTENDS ITSELF IN TWO DIRECTIONS: TOWARD GOD AND TOWARD NEIGHBOR. A VEILED REFERENCE TO OBEDIENCE TO THE GREAT COMANDMENT APPEARS HERE."** DARRELL BOCK

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#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Is it your priority to be with believers in Bible study, fellowship, meals, and prayer?
- 2) Is your heart so grateful for the generosity of God to you that it overflows in generosity to others?
- 3) Are you loving God and others in such a way that it is drawing others into God's kingdom?