

The First Church, Part 2:  
“They Held Fast to the Word”  
**Acts 2:37-42**

**I. It is imperative that the church have the right (Biblical) teaching.**

- A. Biblical teaching is the foundation of the church.
- B. Biblical teaching is the means by which God’s people grow.

(Proverbs 29:18; Isaiah 1:1; Jeremiah 23:16; Ezekiel 12:21-25; 1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Peter 1:22-2:3)

**II. It is essential that the church remain in the right (Biblical) teaching.**

- A. This is the mark of true believers.
- B. This is the mark of a true church.

(John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:3; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:2-3)

**Scripture References and Notes**

**continued steadfastly** [προσκαρτερέω (proskartereó)]

- I persist, persevere in, continue steadfast in; I wait upon.
- (from *prós*, "towards, interactively *with*" and *kartereó*, "show steadfast strength," derived from *krátos*, "prevailing strength")
- properly, to consistently showing strength which *prevails* (in spite of difficulties); to *endure* (remain firm), *staying* in a *fixed direction*.
- [*proskartereó* means "to continue to do something with intense effort, with the possible implication of despite difficulty – 'to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in'" (*L & N*, 1, 68.68).]

1 Timothy 4:13, 16

<sup>13</sup>Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

<sup>16</sup>Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Titus 1:9

...holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

### Jude 3

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

### Galatians 1:6-9

<sup>6</sup> I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

### Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

### Proverbs 29:18 (NLT)

When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

### Isaiah 1:1

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

### Ezekiel 12:21-25

<sup>21</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>22</sup> “Son of man, what *is* this proverb *that you people* have about the land of Israel, which says, ‘The days are prolonged, and every **vision** fails’? <sup>23</sup> Tell them therefore, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “I will lay this proverb to rest, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel.” ’ But say to them, ‘ “The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every **vision**. <sup>24</sup> For no more shall there be any false **vision** or flattering divination within the house of Israel. <sup>25</sup> For I *am* the LORD. I speak, and the word which I speak will come to pass; it will no more be postponed; for in your days, O rebellious house, I will say the word and perform it,” says the Lord GOD.’ ”

### Jeremiah 23:16

Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD.

### 1 Timothy 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; <sup>15</sup> but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

### 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

<sup>22</sup> Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, <sup>23</sup> having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, <sup>24</sup> because “All flesh *is* as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, <sup>25</sup> But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. <sup>1</sup> Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, <sup>2</sup> as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

### 1 John 2:3-6

<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the

love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

1 John 5:2-3

<sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. <sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

John 14:15, 21, 23-24

<sup>15</sup> “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

<sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

<sup>24</sup> He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

1 Timothy 4:1

<sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...

2 Timothy 4:3-4

<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

\*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version.