

LIFE TOGETHER

Acts 2:46

Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart

I have always been in awe of Christians in the early days of the church. Acts 2 seems to indicate that they had a fantastic sense of togetherness. We are told that they were going from house to house breaking bread, "taking their meals together." That was characterized by "gladness and sincerity of heart."

We are also told in verse 42 that "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." That verse shows that they worshipped together; they were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching. They were devoting themselves to prayer, and to "**the** breaking of bread."

It seems that, in the early days of the church, Christians lived life together. That is not to say that they lived together in some sort of commune. It does show that they were together a lot, a whole lot more than three or four hours a week. They were continually devoting themselves to all of those things.

While we may have a hard time recapturing that kind of togetherness, we do need to have a strong sense of brotherhood. "Fellowship" implies sharing or participation together in a whole lot of things. In the first century, Christians seemed to understand that they needed each other. Whether we realize it or not, the same is true of us.

--Ron Harper

Why?

Job 10:2 "I Will say to God, 'Do not condemn me; let me know why you contend against me.'"

Have you ever found yourself asking why? Why you? Why this? Why now? My entire life, I have been told never to question God or become angry with God for anything. However, as I read the Bible, many times strong believers and godly figures were upset and even angry with God. One cannot consider anger and confusion with God without referencing Job and his trials.

Job's narrative is one of heartbreak from every angle. Along with a literal loss of family and possessions, to him, he had lost his God. He felt abandoned and alone. His friends didn't help the situation either. They accused Job for being a bad person, and thus these bad things were happening to him. For all practical purposes, Job was alone.

As we read Job's prayers, he is evidently angry with God. The word "why" occurs twenty times in the entire book. Obviously, it was a question that was at the forefront of Job's mind. "Why me?" "Why was I born?" "Why don't you just kill me and end this all?" Job asks these questions continually in his narrative. As we also look into God's nature, we realize that God never got angry with Job for asking questions, and Job never renounced God. We cannot truly understand why bad things happen in our lives but we have a loving God that allows us to come to him with each and every care and concern that we may have.

In college, I took a class called "The Problem of Pain and Suffering." During the last class meeting, Dr. Kippy Myers (yes that is his real name) said, "Without the bad, how could we know what good is?" He is exactly right. Rather than asking why, ask what. **What** is a blessing in your life today? **Where** does that blessing come from? Ultimately, it comes from God. Our praise is to him for blessing us in the midst of pain, suffering, and evil.

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK

Ernestine Taylor, Mary Jo Rogers, Melanie Martin

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Imogene Bozeman, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Melba Young, Jeanie Young, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Laura Wiser, Mary Jo Rogers, Ernestine Taylor, Melanie Martin, Willis Clark

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*, Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

NEWS & NOTES

***Visitors** - We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the collection plate.

*If you have a name for the **Barnabas** list, please fill out a Barnabas card and place it in the collection plate.

* We have received a thank you note from Gail Jones.

*Elders, Deacons, Preachers meeting **today** at 3:30 p.m.

***Meeting** - all parents with children in the youth group meet **today** at 4 p.m.

***Senior Saints luncheon** Saturday, February 27th at Bell Buckle Café.

***CYC** - February 26th-28th.

***Couples Retreat** in Pigeon Forge - March 18th - 20th.

***Special Kid's Race** on Saturday, March 19th @ 7 a.m. Sign-up sheet for water station volunteers in the foyer.

***Ladies Day** at East Main church of Christ on Saturday, April 30th. For more information, see flyer in foyer.

***Thank you** to everyone who has volunteered to serve. The sign-up sheets are in the foyer if anyone wishes to sign-up today.



Continuing this week a **Basket Baby Shower** for The Hernandez family, who recently had a new baby girl. The basket is located near the kitchen.

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We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm
Wednesday	
Ladies Morning Bible Class	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Fred Rogers
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson
Michael Bowman
Craig Buckner
Bob Hoover

Andy Melton
Brian Melton
Alan Pepper
Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

February 14, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	230
	Bible classes	170
	PM worship	150
	Contribution	\$6,249.33

Wednesday PM Bible classes 124

Wednesday AM Ladies Class (Sept-May) 12

**When county schools are closed due to inclement weather
AM Ladies Class will be cancelled**

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



February 21

Louise Smithson
Dean Thompson

February 28

B.K. & Jan Ham
Robert & Mary Ann McKnight

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!