

## 10.07.20 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** Devoted to Learning God's Ways

**Scripture Reading:** [Acts 2: 41-47](#)

**Reflection:** Rev. George Vink

When was the last time you said, "I can't wait to see you!"? Have you ever said it? I'm confident that you said it to someone you loved. Great and I'm glad! But, when was the last time you said, "I can't wait to be in God's presence and learn God's ways?" As members of the CRC, we confess an encouraging truth in words of The Contemporary Testimony #35 & 36 which says, "We are loved by Jesus and loving him; delighting in his presence, seeking him in prayer. Our new life in Christ is celebrated and nourished in the fellowship of congregations, where we praise God's name, hear the Word proclaimed, learn God's ways...."

When we delight in someone's presence, we can't wait to be with them, including Jesus. This can happen when we gather for worship, gather in our small group, in our mentoring relationships, and in our personal devotions. There are a number of ways for us to "praise God's name, **hear the Word proclaimed, learn God's ways....**" (Please note the highlighted!)

Church life as described in Acts 2:42 reveals a church that began a beautiful practice. Gathering together in order to learn God's ways. These two things were precious to them. The words, "*They devoted themselves....*" says so! And, when they did so, the focus was on praise, prayer, preaching and sacraments. Peter proclaimed the Word with conviction as empowered by the outpoured Holy Spirit. But do not restrict the learning to Peter's sermons. The Word was proclaimed as Peter stood with the other eleven who had "been with Jesus." People were learning God's ways by way of the apostles' teaching. Note the plural! Having an apostrophe after the "e" restricts the proclamation and God's ways to one apostle's teaching. The other disciples, now the "Sent Out Ones," called apostles included John and others who shared the now-risen Christ's teachings—God's ways—for transformation of their lives then, and ours today.

As Pastor Doug pointed out their doing so led to repentance and many becoming Christ's followers, believers whom we simply call Christians, a name first used in Antioch. Being "devoted" to what we call "**the Word**" and "**God's Ways**" as stated in our Contemporary Testimony meant listening to disciples who had "been with Jesus." Peter and the others were young men who knew God's Word as in the Old Testament and were convicted that its fulfillment had come in the person and preaching of Jesus, God's Son. But let's remember, the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit made it happen. Eventually they and others, including Paul and Luke, would write it down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit once again.

We can hear and learn the "**Word**" and obey "**God's Ways**" by way of the Bible today as well as by way of the teachings of others who've studied and applied those truths. We also need to be devoted to doing 'learning God's ways' as the believers did in the church described in Acts 2. God's way still convicts and changes lives. It's still always available at home daily, in one on one mentoring relationship and in small groups during the week, and at church on Sundays....

**Prayer:**

Thank you, Lord, for providing Your Word to us today as we find it in the scriptures. Thank you for the outpouring of your Spirit as we read and apply it. Transform and enrich our lives with it. Thank you that we can and do hear it from teachers also empowered by Your Spirit.

**Action Item for the Day/Week:**

Learn a psalm and sing it. Memorize a sentence from Peter's Epistle. Find one in Paul's letters that stands out and ask a friend what it means to him/her.

**Song for today:**

[Thy Word](#)

[Ancient Words](#)