

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

September 2, 2013

Getting Serious About Church!

ACTS 2:42-47 NLT – (42) All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. (43) A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. (44) And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. (45) They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. (46) They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — (47) all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

MATTHEW 15:1-3 NLT – (1) Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, (2) "Why do your disciples disobey our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat." (3) Jesus replied, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God?"

Today it is estimated that there are more than a half billion practicing Christians in the world, however the church would not even exist today if it were not for a small group of disciples who were sold on Christ. To these disciples, the things of God were not of part-time interest or a commitment based on convenience. To these disciples the things of God were of the highest priority. Today, if you really want to be serious about church, go back and remember therefore from where you have fallen. Take time to remember these important points...

- (1) The early Christians took ASSEMBLING together seriously. (ACTS 2:46)
- (2) The early Christians took FELLOWSHIP seriously. (ACTS 2:46)
- (3) The early Christians took GIVING seriously. (ACTS 2:44-45)
- (4) The early Christians took PRAYER seriously. (ACTS 2:42-43)
- (5) Tradition has its place, but let us not change our Fathers words into rules. We live by grace.

Jesus' words to the early church are as relevant today as they were then - "remember therefore from where you have fallen and repent".

SCRIPTURE READING

JOEL 2:28-29

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

You will receive God's peace, when you receive God's grace.

September 1, 2013

