

Session 3: Devotion to a Vision

“What’s in your brine?”

Overview: As we wrapped up our series Ecclesia Pastor Mark shared on what it means to be fully devoted to Jesus through the local church - not casually connected, but planted, formed and transformed.

As a group - Read Acts 2:42-47 together. Mark then shared a modern rewrite of Acts 2 that revealed selective devotion and convenience based faith. “They were **devoted** to the parts of Jesus they liked that fit their comfort, happiness, personal goals, dreams and bucket lists. Everyone was filled with awe and wonder at sermons, events, even worship but did not take the time to read their bible themselves but always had plans to. If they sold anything they used it to buy something better for themselves. They claimed to love God, but only when it worked for their schedule and loved the people they liked and only made time for certain friends that they got along with. So they felt happy about attending church & “making it in life”. As a result, most people were likable to other people, sometimes not that much different than the world and overall nice people making it really confusing what’s the difference between following Jesus and just being a “good person”.

Key Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Discussion Questions:

1. When you hear the word “devotion” what's the first image or example that comes to mind? (sports, marriage, hobbies, etc.)
2. Pastor Mark rewrote Acts 2 modernly - What part of that modern version felt most uncomfortable, and most familiar?
3. Why does selective devotion blur the difference between following Jesus and simply just being a good person?
4. Mark used a pickle illustration to reference Bapto vs. Baptize - Bapto - a one time dip, Baptizo being immersion over time. Salvation being instant, but transformation being ongoing. Where do you see the temptation to treat faith as a “one time dip” rather than an immersion? How do you think consistency (time spent, relationships, habits) shape spiritual transformation?
5. Pastor Mark emphasized a time, talent and treasure check - If everybody served in the church as much as you do, would it be sustainable? If everyone gave the same percentage as you do would the church be sustainable and move forward, and lastly, if everyone attended church and did groups as much as you do, would you be known and know others?