

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Occasion : All Lighthouse Grand Homecoming / Prayer Service
Date : December 27-28, 2012 / October 31, 2019

TITLE : BEST BIBLICAL PRACTICES OF BIBLICAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES
Text/s :

1 Cor 11:2

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

KJV

Bible Reading :

2 Thess 2:15-17

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

KJV

Song :

INTRODUCTION

What are the Best Biblical Practices of the New Testament Churches that we must keep if we are to remain Biblical Baptist Churches. We all know we as a church "are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Eph 2:19-20).

We must be careful then that we keep as our pattern, the early churches in the New Testament and careful, too, that we keep the precepts and practice of the early churches in the conduct of the ministry - as delivered to them by the Apostles.

We are careful to say, however, that the "traditions" or practice we refer to are those observed by New Testament Churches and not as Jewish customs. We do not intend to make Jewish communities out of our church; but what we do what to maintain are practices of the New Testament Churches.

We are also careful that we do not adopt these "traditions" of practices as equal to the two ordinances of the New Testament Church, which are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Rather, these are traditions or practices that make us the peculiar people that we are.

Some of these Best Biblical Practices are:

1. The practice of faithfully coming together as New Testament churches.

Nothing can replace the coming together of the saved and baptized people as a New Testament Church. It is senseless to be called a church when we cannot be united in coming together as a people of God. This is one of our distinct qualities. We are an ekklesia - a called-out assembly. As such, we always love to assemble together. Nothing replaces the value of being able to come together in unity in one place.

Acts 2:1, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."

Acts 2:46-47, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Phil 2:2, "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

2. The practice of desiring the preaching and teaching of the Word of God

Preaching and teaching is as old as our faith. No amount of program, music or presentation can replace these two. They are central to what we are as New Testament Churches. This is the reason why the pulpit remains to be at the center of our stage. We preach and teach "precept upon precept, line upon line."

The preaching and teaching of the Word of God is central in the existence of every New Testament Baptist Church. No amount of program, music or otherwise can replace them. As Biblical Baptist churches we believe that the Word of God must be delivered through preachings and teachings, "precept upon precept, line upon line." Moreover we believe that the preaching of the Word of God should not be limited in time. It is through preaching and teaching that a man is "perfected" in Christ.

Acts 5:42

42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

KJV

Matt 11:1

11 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

KJV

Acts 15:35

35 Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

KJV

Col 1:28

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

KJV

Isa 28:9-13

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

13 But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

KJV

Acts 20:7

7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

KJV

Acts 28:30-31

30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,
31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

KJV

2 Tim 4:2-5

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

KJV

Ps 40:9

9 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest.

KJV

Luke 4:18-19

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

KJV

Isa 61:1-2

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

KJV

Rom 10:13-15

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

KJV

Col 1:28

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

KJV

3. The practice of diligently studying the Word of God

Acts 17:10-11

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

KJV

2 Tim 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

KJV

4. **The practice of passionately seeing people saved, baptized and growing.**

Acts 2:41-42

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

KJV

Acts 2:46-47

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

KJV

Acts 5:14

14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

KJV

Acts 8:12

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

KJV

5. **The practice of heartily bringing the Gospel everywhere and anywhere. Building churches and missions.**

Planting churches is a practice as old as the New Testament. It should remain to be so in all Lighthouse related churches.

Acts 16:4-5

4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

KJV

Acts 11:19-21

19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

KJV

1 Thess 1:8

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

KJV

Rom 1:8

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

KJV

6. The practice of faithful stewardship, cheerful giving and sincere love through the grace of giving

It is evident in Paul's teaching in 2 Cor 8 that the grace of giving is a practice that was strongly taught in the early churches in the New Testament Churches.

1 Cor 4:2

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

KJV

2 Cor 9:7

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

KJV

2 Cor 8:8

8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

KJV

2 Cor 8:7

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

KJV

7. The practice of unreservedly helping brethren and other churches

Acts 4:34

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

KJV

2 Cor 8:14-15

14 But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:

15 As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.

KJV

2 Cor 9:12-13

12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

KJV

Acts 11:28-30

28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

KJV

8. The practice of edifying each other through gift-based services and ministries.

Rom 12:6-9

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

KJV

Rom 12:3-8

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

KJV

9. The practice of singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs

Eph 5:19-20

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

KJV

Col 3:16-17

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

KJV

Ps 47:7

7 For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.

KJV

1 Cor 14:15

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

KJV

Matt 26:30

30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

KJV

Mark 14:26

26 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

KJV

10. The practice of honoring the men of God

Heb 13:7

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

KJV

Heb 13:24

24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

KJV

Heb 13:17

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

KJV

1 Thess 5:12-13

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

KJV

1 Tim 5:17-18

17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

KJV

11. The practice of making impact and being relevant to society

Phil 2:15-16

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

KJV

Acts 17:6

6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

KJV

1 Tim 2:1-3

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

KJV

1 Peter 2:12

12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

KJV

12. The practice of waiting, looking forward, loving and making everyone ready for the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ

Titus 2:13

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
KJV

1 Cor 1:7-8

7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

2 Tim 4:8

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

KJV

1 Cor 11:26

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

KJV

1 Thess 5:23

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

2 Peter 3:12-14

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

KJV