1 - **Now that I’m a Christian, Then What?**

Acts 2:38-42

2 - **Now That You’re a Christian…**

In Acts 2, there were 3000 souls who were convicted of their sin and responded to the gospel message and were baptized ***“for the remission of their sins”***. (Acts 2:38)

Now that they are forgiven, **what then?**

**What do we do now that we’re saved and what do we do for those who have been saved?**

3 - **What did they do in Acts chapter 2?**

*“****They*** *were* ***continually devoting themselves*** *to the* ***apostles' teaching*** *and to* ***fellowship****, to the* ***breaking of bread*** *and to* ***prayer****. “*

Who are the ***“they”*?**

4 - ***“Continually devoted…”***

Defined: “to be earnest towards…**to persevere, be constantly diligent… to attend assiduously all the exercises… adhere closely to** (as a servitor): attend (give self) **continually”**. (Strong)

“To tarry, **remain somewhere**… continue steadfastly with someone…” (Zodhiates)

5 - **Continual Devotion**

**We need to choose our devotion!**

Matthew 6:24, *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will* ***hate*** *the one and* ***love*** *the other, or he will be* ***devoted*** *to one and* ***despise*** *the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”*

(1 Kings 8:61; 11:4; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Romans 12:10)

**Devotion to Christ and not to any person**.
(1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:21-23; Ephesians 4:11-16; Galatians 3:27-29)

6 - ***“Continually devoted…”***

To four things: (Acts 2:42)

1. **The apostles doctrine.**
2. **Fellowship**
3. **Breaking of bread**
4. **Prayer**

7 - ***“Continually devoted to the Apostles doctrine…”***

**Then what? New Christians need a lot of teaching!** (Matthew 28:18-20)

* As babes in Christ, they need to seek to consume it and we need to seek to provide it! (1 Peter 2:1-2; Matthew 5:6; Hebrews 5:12-14)
* Need for continual growth. (2 Peter 3:17-18; Heb. 6:1)
* It’s what builds us up and nourishes us. (Acts 20:32;
1 Timothy 4:6, 16; cf., Acts 17:11)

8 - ***“Continually devoted to the Apostles doctrine…”***

* **Questions we must answer:**
* What was the “apostles doctrine”? Was it simply their **interpretation or explanation** of the Lord's teaching?
* Is there a difference between "**gospel**" and "**doctrine**" and must we agree on the gospel, but agree to disagree on matters of **doctrine**? What do the scriptures say? (Note the expression “the faith” in Galatians 1:11, 23; Acts 13:7-12; Jude 3)

9 - ***“Continually devoted to the Apostles doctrine…”***

**First, from whom or how did the apostles get their message?**

* What the apostles taught was not human wisdom or of human origin but by “revelation of Jesus Christ” and were in fact the Lord’s commandments. *(****Galatians 1:11-12;
1 Corinthians 14:37; Ephesians 3:1-5; 1 Thess. 2:13)***
* They spoke as ***“the Spirit was giving them utterance”*** (Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13)

10 - ***“Continually devoted to the Apostles doctrine…”***

Why was the **Holy Spirit. sent** to the apostles?

1. To **teach them all things and bring to their remembrance what Christ had said** (**John 14:26**);
2. To **testify of Christ** (**John 15:26-27**); and
3. To **guide them into ALL truth** (**John 16:13-14**).

That the Spirit did these things is evident from our being given ***“all things that pertain to life and godliness”***(**2 Peter 1:3**).

11 - ***“Continually devoted to the Apostles doctrine…”***

**Second, as the apostles acted under the Spirit's guidance and the Lord’s directives, they served as “*ambassadors*”.**

* **Sent and directed by Christ**.
(*John 17:18; Matthew 28:19-20)*
* **God entreating through them**. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

12 - ***“Continually devoted to the Apostles doctrine…”***

**Therefore, to reject what the apostles taught and preached is to reject the word of God**, who had given them the Holy Spirit (1 Thess. 4:8; Luke 10:16; John 13:20).

**To practice what the apostles did, said and wrote keeps one in fellowship with God**. (Philippians 4:9)

* ***“The Lord’s commandment”***. (1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Peter 3:1-2;
1 John 4:6)

The apostle’s doctrine was “***binding***”. (Matthew 16:19)

13 - **Then What?**

A new Christian begins with a life-long commitment devotion to our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ and to his/her fellow Christians.

* Knowing our lives have forever changed.

A new Christian also begins with a life-long commitment to learning and growth. (CCE)

All members of the body should seek to help strengthen the commitment and further the growth of the new Christian in the word of God.

14 - **Now What?**

What is your spiritual need?

* If you haven’t started your life as a child of God…
* If you have but your devotion has waned and your growth hasn’t continued…