****Feb 12, 2017**

**Forward Focus 2017: God’s Blueprint – Part 7**

*(The Power of Communion)*

**Acts 2:42** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the* ***breaking of bread****, and in prayers.*

**Review**

* Key elements present in the early church.

-We should not pick & choose what suits our way of thinking.

* Rather, we are to align ourselves with His plan for building His church.

-Foundations in this ‘building’ are vital.

* The things of God in this 21st Century **can be known, understood, and applied** in the spirit **and** precision it was delivered. **1 Cor 2:12**
* The HS gives us ‘revelation knowledge’ that transcends mere sense knowledge. **John 14:26**
* A vital relationship with the HS is not an optional extra: it’s essential.

**What’s so important about “Breaking Bread”**

* Whole Counsel of God’s Word conveys truth.

-OT revelation … and NT Testament

**Old Testament Foundations: Types & Shadows:**

* Fits into God’s unfolding plan of restoration to fullness of a liberating relationship: Spirit – Soul - Body

**Passover Feast: Exodus 12: 6-9**

-Innocent lamb spoke of Jesus.

-Kill at twilight: exact hour Jesus died (3 pm)

-Responsibility is to apply the blood yourself in the gateway to your household.

-Eat the flesh: personal identification & internalization.

-Roasted in fire, not boiled: speaks of fiery judgment of our sin placed on Jesus.

-A bloodless, sanitized gospel is totally ineffective.

**Bronze Serpent: Numbers 21:9**

-Objectionable as it may be Jesus is represented by a serpent .-Bronze is symbolic of judgment: our sin is laid on Jesus and judged.

-Our responsibility is to look at – no place for dead works.

**2 Cor 3:18**

**New Testament: Revelation Paul received about communion**

**1 Cor 11:23-32**

-Context: strife, division, carnality in the church: abusing grace.

-Paul brings correction.: emphasizes Jesus’ covenant in His **body** & His **blood**.

-God expects us an opportunity to ‘judge’ ourselves .

-The ‘unworthy manner’ is not to discern the Lord’s body’s role in the big picture.

This promotes bodily health (Bread = healing / Blood = forgiveness).

**Final Take away**

* Breaking of bread is a powerful foundational covenant proclamation of the greatness of God’s gracious provision for our well-being in Christ.

**Table Talk**

**Communion**

We release our faith by declaring God’s key provisions through communion:

* The freedom that comes from the forgiveness of our sins.
* The freedom from sickness that comes by the stripes of Jesus.