Sermon: "Some Things Never Change – And They Shouldn't!" Text: Acts 2:36, 41-47 (page 910 in the pew Bible)

"Find out what pleases the Lord." (Ephesians 5:10, NIV)

# I. Christ-centered Worship pleases the Lord.

"The breaking of bread and the prayers" Acts 2:42

"Attending the temple together and.....praising God" Acts 2:46-47

**John 4:23** "A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father *seeks*."

#### II. Christ-centered Discipleship pleases the Lord.

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching." Acts 2:42

**I Peter 2:2-3** "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ..."

#### III. Christ-centered Fellowship pleases the Lord

"Breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts." Acts 2:46

**Hebrews 10:23-25** "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another."

## IV. Christ-centered Compassion pleases the Lord

"Selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need." Acts 2:45

## V. Christ-centered Evangelism pleases the Lord

"The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." **Acts 2:47** 

#### **Acts 8:1**

"On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and *all except the apostles* were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria."

## VI. The purpose and motivation of it all:

**II** Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."