

Acts
Irreducible Minimums
Acts 20:1-12

What makes a church, a church? It is an important question especially against the backdrop of what is usually asked in our culture. We are much more familiar with the question, what do we expect to experience when we go to church? That question isn't necessarily a bad question, unless of course our expectation of church experience take precedence over biblical expectations of church experience. Only when we answer the first question, can we then be in a position to answer the second.

1. The church meets on the Lord's Day.
2. The church comprises the Lord's people.
3. The church observes the Lord's Supper.
4. The church proclaims the Lord's message.
5. The church experiences the Lord's power.

These opening verse of Acts 20 give us a picture of Christ-exalting, Spirit-empowered worship by a church that was seeking to keep the main thing, the main thing. We are challenged to encourage one another as we gather as Christ's church to be equipped for Christ's mission. We can be grateful that we have the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, in us and with us, working through us so that we may be found obedient to the commands of Christ, and so that we might live for His glory.

For further consideration

Notice that Paul's priorities were always the strengthening of the churches and the establishing of new ones. Your calling and context will be very different, but how do you live out the principles of those priorities in your particular spheres of influence? How can you encourage other Christians this week? Why do you think it is important to be reminded weekly of the resurrection of Jesus? Do you think it is important to gather corporately with the Lord's people? What do you think about when we observe the Lord's Supper? Why is participating in it a privilege? What can you do to ready yourself to hear the preaching of God's Word? How do you think we should listen to sermons? Take a moment to pray for the weekly gathering at Parkview, that we might keep the main thing, the main thing, and the would practice well those things that actually make the church, the church.