

## Lesson 2

# GOD'S CALLED-OUT ASSEMBLY THE CHURCH

### Church Members Were Called "Believers."

According to Acts 5:14, what were the members of the early church called?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Read Acts 4:4. How many men were members of the church at this  
 time? \_\_\_\_\_ Not only did these men hear God's Word but they also  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 4:4).

A true **believer** is a person who gladly **receives** God's Word: "Then they that  
 \_\_\_\_\_ his word (Peter preached God's Word to them)  
 were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls  
 (persons)"--(Acts 2:41). The word **receive** means "to **welcome**," just like you would receive or  
 welcome a friend or a guest into your home:

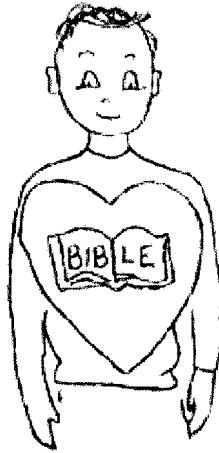
"Come and be a guest in my house. You're welcome to stay and abide with me. I'd  
 love to have you stay with me, and it is a real joy for you to be my guest. I feel very  
 comfortable and happy when you're here. Please make yourself at home here. You're  
 always welcome in this place."

What do believers receive and welcome into their lives (Acts 8:14)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Believers should receive and welcome God's Word "**not** as the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ but as it is in truth (as it truly is), the Word \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess.  
 2:13).

Someone might say, "I don't believe all the things that Paul wrote  
 because he was just a man. The things that he wrote in the Bible are only  
 the words of a man and a man can make mistakes." How could you  
 answer this person in light of 1 Corinthians 14:37 and 1 Thess. 4:15?

Is God's Word welcome in your life? Is God's Word your special guest? Is God's Word at  
 home in your heart?

"I have joyfully  
and gladly  
received God's  
Word. HAVE  
YOU?"



God's Word is at  
home in my heart  
and mind and life  
(Deut. 6:6; Josh. 1:8; John  
15:7; Psalm 1:2; 119:11; and  
Col. 3:16).

Do you eagerly **welcome** God's Word into your heart and mind and life (by saying, "come in!") or do you **shut the doors** of your mind and heart whenever you hear God's Word?

Why were the Jews in Berea more noble than the Jews in Thessalonica (Acts 17:11)?--  
Because "they \_\_\_\_\_ (welcomed) the \_\_\_\_\_ with all \_\_\_\_\_  
(eagerness) of mind." How often did they search the Scriptures? \_\_\_\_\_ How  
often do **you** search the Scriptures (compare John 5:39)? Notice the different groups of believers  
who **received** God's Word (*please match the following*):

- |                                            |                         |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. _____ the Gentile <b>believers</b>      | A. Acts 8:14            |
| 2. _____ the Thessalonian <b>believers</b> | B. Acts 11:1            |
| 3. _____ the Samaritan <b>believers</b>    | C. Acts 17:11-12        |
| 4. _____ the Berean <b>believers</b>       | D. 1 Thess.1:6;<br>2:13 |

Unbelievers do not welcome and receive God's Word and God's truth into their hearts.  
See 2 Thessalonians 2:10 which describes their **hatred** and **rejection** of the truth: "they  
\_\_\_\_\_ not the love of the \_\_\_\_\_ (God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_ John  
17:17), that they might be \_\_\_\_\_." Look at 2 Thessalonians 2:12: "That they all might  
be damned (judged) who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_." But 2 Thessalonians  
2:13 tells us that those who have been chosen to **salvation** (those who are the true members of  
Christ's Church) receive God's Word gladly because it says that they believe the T\_\_\_\_\_.

[Note: Luke 8:13 does describe unsaved people who "receive the Word with joy," but as you read the rest of the verse you see that their reception did not last for long. God's Word did not find a **permanent** home in their hearts. They embraced the truth initially, but when things got difficult they rejected the truth. They held onto the truth for only a short time.]



**HAPPY HANK**  
(PSALM 1:1-2 "BLESSED")

**"God's Word is  
at home in my life"**



**SAD SAM**

**"God's Word is not  
welcome in my heart."**

Before each of the following sentences, put **H** for those things that Hank would say and **S** for those things that Sam would say:

_____	"I can't wait for the Pastor to stop talking so that I can get home."
_____	"What a wonderful promise! I never realized that was in the Bible."
_____	"What the Pastor said was very interesting. I'm going to read those verses again when I get home to see if what the Pastor was saying is really so" (Compare Acts 17:11). <i>Note: A good pastor would want his people to go to the Scriptures and make sure that what he is teaching is really true.</i>
_____	"I seem to get bored in Sunday School. All we ever do is study the Bible."
_____	"I don't read my Bible every day because there are too many other things I would rather be doing."
_____	"This verse will help me to be a better student at school."
_____	"I sure hope this church service is over before the World Series begins (or Super Bowl, etc.)."
_____	"I know the Pastor will be speaking on Acts chapter 25 because he spoke on Acts 24 last week. I'm going to read that chapter even before I get to church."
_____	"I didn't understand what the Pastor meant when he was explaining this verse. I'll have to ask one of the elders (or my Sunday School teacher or my parents) about it after the service."

_____	"I don't usually spend time thinking about Bible verses because I have too many other things to think about such as school, my friends, sports, etc."
_____	"I try to take notes in Church because it helps me to pay attention and listen."
_____	"If my parents didn't make me come to Sunday School I would never come."
_____	"Why do we need to come to Church in the middle of the week? Isn't attending on Sunday enough?"
_____	"I'm trying to read through all of my Bible in a year. To do this I must read three or four chapters each day."
_____	"I used to receive God's Word with joy but I found that it is too hard to be a believer. My friends made fun of me." See Luke 8:13.
_____	"I love to go to Church because most of my friends are there, but that's the only reason."
_____	"My little sister (or brother) really enjoys the times when I read to her (or him) from the Bible and other good Christian books."
_____	"I regret that I can never watch the good television shows on Sunday night because I always have to be in church."
_____	"My friend and I have been memorizing Bible verses. It's fun to do it together."
_____	"Whenever I read God's Word I always try to remember that the Bible is God's Love Letter to me and that the Lord has a personal message just for me."
_____	"When the Lord teaches me something from His Word I enjoy sharing that truth with my family and friends. I'm also very thankful whenever I have an opportunity to talk to an unsaved person about the Lord and what Christ has done for me."