

We R2B a people of the Word!

Acts 2:42-47

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Introduction: R2B / Yahweh – I Am

I Am the Light, Gate, Good Shepherd, Resurrection and Life, Way, Truth, and Life, Vine.

I am to Be:

- **Fruit of the Spirit:** Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control (Galatians 5:22).
- **Beatitudes: *Blessed are...*** the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. (Matthew 5)
- **Clothed in Christ:** *“Tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, forgiving... Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony... peace. And always be thankful.”* (Colossians 3:12-15)

We Are To Be: R2B – Can the above be applied to us corporately?

Over the next two months we will look at 8 highlights from the Book of Acts that illustrate the primary functions of a healthy church. The first four are taken from Acts 2:42 – Devotion to the Apostles' Teaching (Discipleship & Doctrine):

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Highlight: The early church prioritized learning and internalizing the teachings of the apostles (which formed the foundation of Christian doctrine). **This ongoing commitment to sound doctrine is crucial for spiritual growth, unity, and discernment within a healthy church.** It emphasizes the importance of teaching and discipleship.

1. W– Wisdom. The Word of God is Wisdom!

Holy –sacred, set-apart, anointed: *“For I am the Lord your God. You must consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.”* (Leviticus 11:44b)

Wisdom: *“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”* (James 1:5)

Knowledge: *“Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! ³⁴ For who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice?”* (Romans 11:33)

Truth:

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are –yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:12-16))

If we want to be holy, set apart for God's purposes, if we ask for wisdom and seek knowledge, and desire to know the truth, Jesus was and is all these, and more. For us to be exhibiting these truths we must be Jesus-Centered! This book is our Rule, Roadmap, Right, and Responsibility!

2. O– Obedience. The Word of God is to be obeyed

A Final Charge to Timothy

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings –what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

The Bible: God-breathed (Inspired), useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness... Purpose? So you may be thoroughly equipped... for every good work!

Written in 3 languages; Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek. Written across 3 continents: Africa, Asia, Europe.

Written over a span of 1500 years.

Written by 40 different authors.

When all the books came to gather as one book the result is miraculous: unity and purity! No contradictions, no errors, tell One amazing story! Everything in the Word points to Jesus-Messiah, Our Christ, our Lord, and our King!

The Old Testament prepared the world for Jesus! The Gospels declared Jesus to the World! The rest of the New Testament explains Jesus to the World.

Jesus IS the Word! Jesus IS to be Obeyed!

Functioning:

"But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him." (1 John 2:5)

Following: Jesus the shepherd, listening to His voice. Jesus said,

"If you love me, keep my commands." (John 14:15)

Freedom:

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)

Fulfilled:

“The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living.” (Psalm 19:7-8)

3. R– Righteousness. The Word of God is Righteousness

Seek:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

Suit-up:

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17)

Sanctified:

“For our sake he (Father-God) made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Suffer:

For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. ²² He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ²³ He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. ²⁴ He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. (1 Peter 2:21-24a)

Righteousness:

By his wounds you are healed. ²⁵ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls. (1 Peter 2: 24b-25)

4. D– Devotion. The Word of God calls for Devotion

Devoted to God: One God, One Way, through King Jesus THE Way, THE Truth, THE Life.

Great Command:

“³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

Delighting in His Bride: The phrase "one another" is derived from the Greek word *allelon* which means "one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally." It occurs 100 times in the New Testament.

Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another.

Devouring His Word:

- **Spiritual Sustenance:** Nourishment.

“People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:4b)

- **Spiritual Guidance:**

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

Conclusion:

As we reflect on all that has been shared –who God **is**, who we are **to be**, and how we are **to live**– we are reminded that the call of Christ is both deeply personal and profoundly communal. Yahweh declares, “I AM,” and Jesus echoes that identity in the Gospels –in His I AM statements. **And because He is, we are to be, called.** Not just in belief, but in being –a people transformed.

We are to embody the **Fruit of the Spirit**, live out the **Beatitudes**, and be **clothed in Christ** –marked by love, mercy, humility, gentleness, and patience. This is not only an individual pursuit but a corporate calling: the Church is meant to be these things together, as one body, rooted in Christ.

Over the next weeks, as we journey through the 8 Marks of a Healthy church as seen in Acts, we will see a church alive in devotion –to teaching, to prayer, to one another. The Word of God is our wisdom, our standard of truth, our source of righteousness, and the object of our devotion. The Bible is not only to be known –it is to be **obeyed, lived, and loved**. As Jesus is the Word made flesh, so we, His people, are to become living testimonies of His truth.

Let us then live Jesus-centered lives: walking in wisdom, operating in obedience, pursuing righteousness, and deepening our devotion. May IBC Madrid be a living reflection of His character, His love, and His mission.

Let us not merely learn the Word –let us **become** the Word in action. Because **He is**, we **R2B!**