

Those Who Believed

By Mark Mayberry

11/27/2016

INTRODUCTION

Beginnings are often significant. On a personal level, couples remember that first look, their first date, and the first song they shared. On a political level, those who respect the ideals on which our nation is established are concerned with upholding the original intent of the constitution. On a spiritual level, those who respect the Word of God are mindful of His divine pattern for the home (as set forth in Genesis 2) and for the church (as revealed in the New Testament). To this end, let us consider lessons that may be drawn from Acts 2:41-47, which offers an inspired description of “those who believed.”

BAPTIZED FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS

Those who believed were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:37-38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:18-22).

HEIRS OF GOD'S PROMISE

Those who believed were heirs of God's promise (Acts 2:39; Gen. 12:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Eph. 2:13-18).

ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR SALVATION

Those who believed were active participants in their salvation (Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Thess. 1:2-3; 2 Pet. 1:4-11).

ADDED TO THE CHURCH

Those who believed were added to the church (Acts 2:41, 47; Matt. 16:15-19; Eph. 3:8-12).

CONTINUALLY DEVOTED TO WORSHIP

Those who believed were continually devoted to worship (Acts 2:42; John 4:23-24; Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 13:15).

IMPRESSED BY THE EVIDENCE

Those who believed were impressed by the evidence of inspiration (Acts 2:43; 8:4-24; John 3:1-2; Heb. 2:1-4).

DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER

Those who believed were devoted to one another (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; Rom. 15:26-27; 1 Cor. 16:1-2).

CONTINUED IN PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

Those who believed continued in physical and spiritual fellowship (Acts 2:46-47; 5:42; Heb. 3:12-13; 10:19-25).

CONCLUSION

Recognizing the importance of the Biblical pattern, let us remain faithful (2 Tim. 3:14-17). With imperfect men, starting efforts are often flawed, subject to revision and improvement. However, as followers of One whose law is perfect, whose testimonies are sure, whose precepts are right, and whose commandments are pure, we can have absolute confidence that His ways are true and trustworthy (Psa. 19:7-9). With the Lord, His beginning efforts are pristine and perfect, not needing adjustment or modification, but remaining eternally valid (Psa. 119:160; Prov. 30:5-6).