

SUNDAY INTO MONDAY

PORTADOWN
BAPTIST
WORSHIP WALK WITNESS

"Sunday into Monday" is designed to help all of us take away some key points from one of the messages we have heard together as a church family. We all know that it is possible to listen to a sermon, even appreciate it, but appropriating and applying what God says in His word is crucial to our worship of Him and our Christian living.



SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER, 2023

PASTOR ANDREW ROYCROFT



"So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them" - Acts 2:41



THE MEMBERS - ADDED TO THE CHURCH

ACTS 2:41-47



Believe – be baptised – belong. These steps, in this sequence, can be observed right across the New Testament and form the basis for how the local church is organised in our own age. This morning we considered church membership from the perspective of formally belonging to God's people. We marked the pattern of the early church,

with its emphasis on a converted, disciplined, and merciful community of Christians being the essence of a local fellowship. We were challenged to consider how closely our own minds, and the practice of Portadown Baptist Church, are conformed to this.



FOR REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

- It is an incredible privilege to be a member of a local church. It is the culmination of God's work in our lives, bringing us to Himself through Christ's work, and joining us to other believers. If you are already a church member, take time to consider the privileges that lie behind and live within your belonging to Portadown Baptist.
- If you are a baptised Christian but not a member of a local church, this morning's passages carry a lot of challenge. Have you thought clearly and conscientiously about being a non-member, or is this a default position that you have come to assume over the years? What kinds of things hold you back from formally becoming a member? Have you shared these with others, or spoken with the elders in Portadown Baptist about them? Is now a good time to revisit your position on this?
- A risk with this morning's message is that we could confuse membership of a local church with salvation. Being a believer qualifies us to be a member of the local church, but being a member of a local church does not guarantee that we are a believer. Revisit your own testimony today. When did God save you? What has been the impact of that work on your life to date? Bless Him that you belong to Him by faith alone in Christ alone, and that your membership is the expression of these realities, not their basis. If you have struggled with assurance (*even if you are a member of the church*) please speak to myself or one of the elders, we will be happy to pray with you.

Almighty God, thank You that the Church is being built all over the world. Thank You for the promise Your Son gave to us that this would be so. Thank You that across the planet You are gathering local bodies of believers, and that You are concerned with their health, their growth, and the

glory that they can bring to Your name. Please guide Portadown Baptist Church as a gathering of baptised believers, help us to value what You value, and to obey Your commission for our life as a church and our witness to the world. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

A PRAYER



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