

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC
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February 4, 2018
SERMON NOTES #4: FIRST CHURCH
Acts 2:37-47; Isaiah 2:1-5

“FIRST CHURCH” HAD 4 FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

1. **Resurrection** is God’s Action that
Points to who Jesus was/is (*Messiah, God’s Son*)
Points to Jesus’ death as
An effective sacrifice for our sin, and
a sign of God’s never-changing love
2. **Mission**: *Since Jesus is still alive . . . then*
Jesus is still at work . . . and
Jesus call us to be his flesh and blood, and hands and feet
3. Our **Powerlessness and Weakness**
Christians admit their inability by themselves to do God’s will
4. God’s **Power and Presence**
Christians believe God is passionate to fill them
with His power and presence through the Holy Spirit – and
so they ask to live within them

“FIRST CHURCH” HAD 6 ESSENTIAL PRACTICES

When Simon Peter preached the very first sermon (Acts 2:41-45),
three thousand people responded by

1. **Repentance**
→ (Greek: meta-noia) a “change of mind” that leads to a change of
direction and changed relationships with God and others
2. **Being Baptized**
→ God’s mark placed on all believers and their children, pointing to
 - God’s passion to wash our sins away
 - God’s love poured out for us through the death (blood) of Jesus
 - God’s our need to live together as a family – like a common logo,
flag, or last name.

In First Church – This Repentance and Baptism led to . .

Acts 2: 42. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
43. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being
done by the apostles.
44. All who believed were together and had all things in common.
45. They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to
all as any had need.
46. Day by day, they spent much time together in the temple and they broke
bread at home as well and ate food with glad and generous hearts,
47. praising God and having the goodwill of the people. And day by day the
Lord added to their numbers those who were being saved.”

3. **Systematic Study**:
→ growing in faith together, they were “devoted to the apostles’
teaching,” the same teaching we have in our Bible today
Want to read the Bible daily?
See Scripture reading in the bulletin back page
Use “Bible Reading” notes. E.g., www.scriptureunion.org.
Or <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/>
4. **The Regular Discipline of Prayer**:
→ praying for each other
Is there a place for prayer that you can use regularly? At home?
At work? In the car?
5. **Building Relationships with Fellow Believers**:
→ gathering together regularly for fellowship and shared meals.
*Time to meet people in Stone Hall? Join a Sunday School class or
small group?*
6. **Meeting the Needs of a Broken World**:
→ whenever they saw a need, they acted with radical generosity
– a willingness even to sell their possessions and give away what they
had.
Check out the 50 hours of service challenge at
<http://www.nationalpres.org/50>