

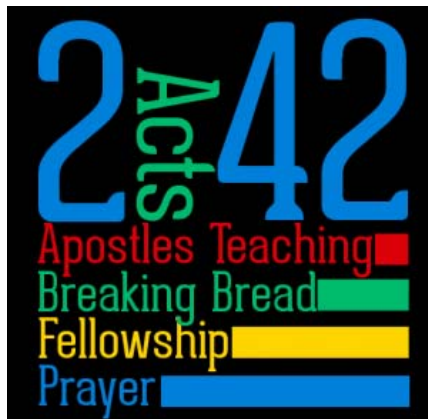
going through the motions?

Sometimes even church attendance can become a matter of merely going through the motions on just another Sunday. For the believers in the early church (Acts 2:41-47), joining with fellow believers was a source of excitement. That was when the church first started and everyone was a new believer—so they were bound to be enthusiastic. But what about us? What can we do to make each Sunday special?

- ◆ *Go with the anticipation of meeting with God.* While He is with us all the time (Heb. 13:5), God is with us in a unique way as we gather with others who know Him (Matt. 18:20; James 4:8). Bring your burdens and praises to Him.
- ◆ *Go to learn about God.* We may not learn something new every week, but we can always be encouraged by the truths of God's Word (Ps. 119:105). Expect to hear from Him.
- ◆ *Go to fellowship with others.* We need each other in this Christian journey. Encourage others, challenge them in their faith, and pray for them (Heb. 10:24-25).

Lord, give us a renewed enthusiasm of heart for attending church, so that it won't be just another Sunday. —AC

If you want to be spiritually fed, go to church with a hunger for the Word.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

MARCH 20, 2016

Just Another Sunday?

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. —Acts 2:42

Early on a sunny Sunday afternoon after church, I headed out for a walk around the community. A man was trimming his grass along the footpath, and we greeted each other with the usual "Gadday, how ya going?" In a negative tone, he replied, "It's just another Sunday." Later, I wondered what he had meant by that. Was he saying, *I'm just doing my chores—*

Walking the Road of Discipleship:
BETTER TOGETHER





OUR CHURCH

I'M SAVED, NOW WHAT? II

Acts 2:41-47 contains numerous descriptions of the first church that are requirements for us:

1. **Saved membership**, verses 40-41, 36-38
2. **Baptised membership**, verses 38, 41
3. **Biblical teaching**, verses 41-42 [last time]

4. **Genuine** _____, verses 42, 44-45

(1 John 1:3) "... and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."

(1 John 1:3) "that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."

(2 Corinthians 6:14) "... For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?"

(2 Corinthians 13:14) "... and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."

(1 Corinthians 10:16) "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? ..

(Philippians 3:10) "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,"

(Romans 12:13) "distributing to the needs of the saints, ..."

(2 Corinthians 8:23) "If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner ..."

(Galatians 2:9) "and when James, ..., perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised."

(Philemon 1:4-6) "I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, {5} hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, {6} that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."

(Hebrews 10:33) "partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;"

(Hebrews 10:24-25) "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, {25} not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

(Proverbs 30:27) "The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks;"



5. **Regular** _____, verses 42, 46, 41

(1 Corinthians 10:16) "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"

(1 Corinthians 11:17-22) "Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, ... {18} For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, ... {20} Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. {21} For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. {22} What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you."

(1 Corinthians 11:31-34) "For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. {32} But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. {33} Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. {34} But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come."

(1 Corinthians 11:25) "... "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

(Matthew 23:13) ""But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ..."



6. _____ together, verse 42, Acts 4:23-31, 12:5, 11-17, 13:1-3, 21:3-6

