**‘Church membership: repentance, baptism, belonging’**

Acts 2:36-41

NMBC 15th October 2023

**Key ideas:**

1. **God has confirmed Jesus to be his ‘Messiah’**

**Jesus** who lived his human life in **Nazareth**

did **miracles (2:22), suffered death (2:23), rose** from the **dead (2:24) -**

**And it was God who planned all these events & made them possible!**

 **David**, the model of the future **Messiah** promised by God, **died**!

 But **Jesus**, because he came **from God**, **rose from the dead**!

 Although he was the Messiah **the people were guilty of crucifying Jesus**.

1. **The people, feeling guilty, asked this question: “What shall we do?”**

Peter’s answer: Repent & be baptised!... which really means ‘You can do nothing’!

… except **to say** **you deserve nothing**, & that **you need God’s free gift of forgiveness**.

1. **Baptism is letting God give you a guarantee:**

a guarantee of **his forgiveness,** & **the gift of His Spirit.**

1. **Peter repeats the assurance that this promise of God is for every race on Earth,**

repeating the promises of **Jesus in 1:8** and of **Peter in 2:21:**

 **‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’.**

1. **Peter pleads with everyone to ‘escape’ from our contemporary culture**

 which takes us away from God.

**Key verse**

**Acts 2:38 ‘Repent & be baptised for the forgiveness of your sins,**

 **& you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’**

**Important words and phrases**

* **Messiah** – 2:36 - the name God gave to the special person who he promised to send to his people. It means ‘**anointed’**, indicating a **king**. In the Old Testament the person promised was also called God’s **‘servant’**. .
* **repentance** – 2:38 - is a complete ‘**change of mind’**. It means a very deep change or transformation in our thinking, attitudes, & the direction of our lives. It means turning away from self-centredness, and letting God be at the centre of all our thinking, plans & choices.
* **corrupt generation** – 2:40 – is a phrase which could be translated:

‘sinful contemporary values’; ‘the evils of your society’; ‘this sick and stupid culture’!