

New Believers
February 20, 2022
Acts 2:32-47

Review of the last few weeks:

Jesus ascension.

Sending of the Holy Spirit.

Peter begins his sermon, which we will finish today.

In our passage today God's people were unified, magnified and they multiplied.

Scripture reminds us that the world will know we are His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:35).

Let's unpack our passage:

Jesus went willingly to the cross for our sins (v. 36).

Peter would have been speaking to some of the very same folks who either helped put Jesus physically on the cross or aided in doing so. So they physically helped as well as their sins.

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
John 10:17-18

Conviction in and of itself, is not salvation (v. 37).

They were cut to the heart, but then asked Peter what they needed to do. Conviction had come and Scripture reminds us that conviction and Godly sorrow works repentance unto salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10).

God can convict you or you can come to church and "feel bad" and walk out the same.

God has called us to repentance just as Peter did his audience (vs. 38-39).

Repentance is not a one and done, it begins and a moment and continues for a lifetime.

Repentance simply means, "to change one's mind, to turn around."

Peter was telling his audience to, under the direction and conviction of the Holy Spirit, change their mind on who Jesus is and follow Him. Peter called for repentance and for baptism.

Warren Wiersbe says, "It is unfortunate that the translation of Acts 2:38 in the King 51 James Version suggests that people must be baptized in order to be saved, because this is not what the Bible teaches. The Greek word eis (which is translated "for" in the phrase "for the remission of sins") can mean "on account of" or "on the basis of." John the Baptist baptized on the basis that people had repented of their sins (Matthew 3:11). Acts 2:38 should not be used to teach salvation by baptism. If baptism is essential for salvation, it seems strange that Peter said nothing about baptism in his other sermons (Acts 3:12- 26; 5:29-32; 10:34-43). In fact, the people in the home of Cornelius received the Holy Spirit before they were baptized! (Acts 10:44-48) Since believers are commanded to be baptized, it is important that we have a clean conscience by obeying (1 Peter 3:21), but we must not think that baptism is a part of salvation. If so, then nobody in Hebrews 11 was saved because none of them were ever baptized." In order to be saved I must repent and

believe, exactly what Peter taught. If I have repented and believed, then I will be obedient and follow the Lord in baptism. What about you? Have you repented and believed? If not, why not today? Call on the Lord to save you from your sins. If you have been saved, have you been baptized? If not, confess your disobedience and take care of the baptism as soon as possible. Thank the Lord for His grace and love. Although we put Jesus on the cross, He is able and will save us. This is incredible grace and love.

When we repent and trust Christ we receive the Holy Spirit and the remission of our sins.

God will call; want to know if you are the Elect? Have you repented and believed?

Some believed, therefore some didn't.

Those who did, did so gladly.

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. **Matthew 7:13-14**

Some say, “If I could just see this or that or if...”

(Rich Man and Lazarus) *“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”* **Luke 16:27-31**

Those who believed:

- Continued in the apostles’ doctrine (study and obey).
- Fellowshiped
- Broke bread and prayed.
- Were together.
- Sold possessions met needs.
- Lord added to their numbers.

Acts 1:8

What’s the difference in those who may call themselves Christians and those who truly are? The Holy Spirit!

Possession to be received 2:38

Power to be released 1:8 and 2:14-19

Presence to be revealed 2:5-6

Person to be recognized 1 Cor 6:19-20 and Acts 2:12-18

Prayer Focus: