

Repent and Be Baptized

Acts 2:37-40

August 13, 2006

I. The Cries of the Sinners

Before you are ever saved you must and will hear the Gospel. (Act.2:37a; Rom.10:13-14)

God has chosen to use the power of the Gospel to bring conviction, but it is the Holy Spirit alone that can bring sinners to this point of “pricked” in the heart. (Act.2:37; 1Cor.1:21; Joh.16:7-11)

When the Holy Spirit brings men unto this conviction of sin it is natural for them to cry, “What shall we do?”. (Act.2:37; 9:6; 16:30-31)

II. The Commands of the Scriptures

Repentance is more than just being sorry for the consequences of our sins. It is turning in our hearts from those sins against God and turning unto God in surrender.

Repentance is not an addendum, but an essential part of the Gospel message. It is a command of the Gospel. (Act.2:38; Mar.1:14,15; Luk.13:3,5; Act.20:21)

“We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable gifts, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus

Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.” (New Hampshire Confession of Faith)

“Be baptized” is in the scriptures and an imperative. Baptism is a command for everyone who has repented and believed the Gospel. (Act.2:38; Mat.28:19; Mar.16:15-16)

The only candidate for baptism is the one that it promises. If you haven’t died with Christ to your old life, it is not for you. This rules out all babies, including those of believers. (Rom.6:1-5; Act.2:39)

III. The Consolations for the Saints

These who had had the grief of being “stabbed in the heart” were now comforted with the promise of the forgiveness of all of their sins. (Act.2:38; 13:38-39; Rom.5:1)

The word “for” here in Acts 2:38 has the meaning of “because of”. (Mat.3:7-11; 12:41)

The second consolation promised here was “ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Act.2:38,16-18)

This promise wasn’t for them alone. It was for their “children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Act.2:39)

Those who are saved have the great consolation of now saving themselves from “this ungodly generation”. (Act.2:40) What did this mean for them? For you now?