

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Acts 2:37-47

What is the purpose and message of Acts?

TESTIMONY IN JERUSALEM 2-8:3

The testimony of the church to Jesus began in Jerusalem.

Foundation of the Church 2-4:31

Its birth 2:1-47

The Spirit came on the day of Pentecost as Jesus promised.

The coming of the Spirit brought a new beginning

He makes possible a new life.

The Spirit's Coming 2:1-4

The Spirit demonstrated His presence by physical signs which attracted public attention and by foreign languages.

The Observer's Question 2:5-13

The evidence of the Spirit's presence was observed by devout Jews who had come to Jerusalem for the feast.

These people are described as "rightly religious." They want to know what the signs mean.

These are more than just curious onlookers.

They have come to Jerusalem in accordance with God's instructions to His people.

These “rightly religious” people were faithful saints according to their understanding of O.T. teaching.

They were looking for Messiah.

Now they hear that He has come.

Peter’s Explanation 2:14-36

In answer to their question, Peter explains the meaning of the signs.

Inadequacy of wine 2:14-15

Evidence from coming of the Spirit 2:16-23

Joel promised the outpouring of the Holy Spirit following the coming of God to dwell among His people in the last days.

What they are seeing is the evidence of the coming of the Spirit.

Therefore, God must have come to dwell among His people.

The coming of the Spirit demonstrates that Jesus is the Messiah.

Messiah came and demonstrated Himself to be Yahweh in the midst of Israel, just as God had promised.

Joel announced that those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved, so those who trust in Jesus will be saved.

Evidence from the resurrection 2:24-35

2nd evidence Jesus was Messiah: the resurrection.

David predicted that Messiah would be raised from the dead.

Jesus fulfilled that prophecy and thereby demonstrated who He is.

Conclusion 2:36

The logical conclusion of the proofs found in the coming of the Spirit and the resurrection is that God is authenticating Jesus.

Jesus is Lord, that is, Yahweh Himself, and Christ, the Messiah.

What did the devout do as a result of Peter's message?

The Hearers' Response 2:37

When these who had been watching for the fulfillment of the promises saw the evidence and heard about Jesus, they realized they were in trouble.

If Jesus was Messiah and Israel killed Him, what could they do now?

Peter's Exhortation 2:38-40

According to 2:38-40, what are the three things Peter urges them to do?

What's the meaning of "repentance for this group of listeners?"

What kinds of (meanings) "repentance" are there?

Remorse, feel sorry for sin (Extra-biblical concept)

Change of lifestyle (cp. "devout")

* Change of mind, opinion

What change of opinion was in order on that occasion?

What's the significance of baptism in the name of Jesus for these listeners?

Peter's direct response was two-fold:

*They should change their mind concerning Jesus and
They should identify with Jesus by baptism.*

How are baptism and repentance related to forgiveness of sins?

What did Peter mean when he urged these listeners to be saved "from this perverse generation?"

What kind of salvation does Peter call them to?

Matt. 12:38-40 —As an evil generation, the only sign they will be given is the resurrection. They have rejected the others but must recognize that sign.

Matt. 12:41-42 —That generation will be condemned by the heathen nations for their unbelief.

Matt. 12:43-45 —That generation is like a man controlled by a demon, trying to reform himself.

Matt. 16:1-4 —

Luke 17:25 —

Matt. 23:29-39 => 24:1-2

By doing the two things Peter exhorts them to do in direct response to their question, they identify with Jesus and will cut themselves off from the generation of Israel that's about to be judged for rejecting Messiah.

How do Peter's exhortations relate to the message of the church today?

What parts of the message should we preach to the unsaved?

What parts would you change today? Why?

Does this mean that the gospel has changed?

(1) Repent Y/N (depends on what you mean!)

To repent is to change your mind about who Jesus is => believe in Him => Y

N => It isn't the same opinion of Jesus that needs to change.

Don't confuse people with the word "repent!"

Too many people think:

You have to feel sorry for your sin —that's not enough!

Or, you have to stop sinning ("turn from your sin")
—that's impossible!

(2) Be baptized N

Baptism is *never* a prerequisite for salvation

They had to identify with him in a unique way => to separate from the condemned generation that was under the judgment of God for rejecting His Son.

We should teach the importance of baptism, but not for the same reason

(3) Forgiveness of sins Y/N

Y—in general sense —always a forward view—it's the result of salvation

N—in specific sense for them—This was looking forward to the time when the nation of Israel would be forgiven at Christ's return.

(4) Receive the promise Y/N

We participate in the same benefits cp. 2:39

The application is different—it is the fulfillment of God's covenant with Israel

(5) Be saved from this perverse generation N**Summary:**

(1) Trust Him! Period.

Results:

(2) Sins forgiven (general sense)

(3) You will receive Holy Spirit

The Believers' Obedience 2:41

Many of those present recognized the truth of Peter's message.

About 3000 identified with Jesus by baptism.

The Believers' Conduct 2:42-47

Those who accepted Him became part of the church.

Luke summarizes the characteristics of the church in those days:

Their activity 2:42

Four priorities:

- * Study of God's Word
- * Fellowship
- * Eating together
- * Prayer

Their amazement 2:43

Their commitment 2:44-45

Their witness 2:46-47

What specific characteristics of the early church ought to be present in a healthy church today (2:42-47)?

8 ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

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|-------------------------------|----------------|
| (1) Study | (2) Fellowship |
| (3) Eating and remembering | (4) Prayer |
| (5) Recognition of God's work | (6) Commitment |
| (7) Helping | (8) Witness |