



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The First Sermon in the Capital: 3000 Repent!

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Acts 2:37-41

“Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’ 38) And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39) For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.’ 40) And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation!’ 41) So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” (NASB)

“INCREDIBLE AS IT MUST APPEAR, HE TOLD THEM THAT THERE WAS HOPE FOR THEM EVEN NOW. LET THEM REPENT OF THEIR SIN AND TURN TO GOD; LET THEM SUBMIT TO BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF JESUS, CONFESSED AS MESSIAH; AND THEIR SINS WOULD BE FORGIVEN—NAY MORE; THEY TOO WOULD RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH HAD BEEN BESTOWED UPON THE APOSTLES THEMSELVES BUT AN HOUR OR TWO BEFORE.”

F. F. BRUCE

How could Jews in the capital who had called for Jesus’ blood 50 days earlier, now be offered such grace? What does it mean to be “pierced to the heart”? Can anyone be saved without repentance? Is baptism required for salvation? What did the 3000 being saved all at one time prove?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JANUARY 23: ACTS 2:42-47 *THE COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH IN THE CAPITAL*
- JANUARY 30: ACTS 3:1-10 *A MIRACLE TO CONFIRM GOD’S WORD IN THEIR CAPITAL*

The fisherman who formerly denied His Lord, now boldly preached before thousands of people when he was filled with the Spirit. His Pentecost sermon answered the greatest questions on the audience’s mind that morning: “How could these lowly Galileans have suddenly mastered all these languages from around the world and why did that sound of a “*violent rushing wind*” come from heaven?” They had said to one another literally, “*Who wished this to be?*” Peter then proved from Scripture, requiring his audience to be the witnesses, that these events had been prophesied long before. The prophet Joel had spoken of the “*last days*” when God would pour out His Spirit upon mankind with supernatural wonders when “*the day of the Lord*” would come and all who called “*on the name of the Lord*” would be saved. He proved that Jesus had demonstrated absolute authority over all things including all demons, disease and even death, as they were witnesses. But most importantly, Peter proved their crucified King was even Lord over all sin and even the penalty of sin, the curse of death, by revealing from Scripture that He could not “*undergo decay*” and thus His death and resurrection had been predicted and was therefore the “*predetermined plan*” of God. And finally Peter proved from Scripture that Jesus had ascended and was at the “*right hand*” of the Father, thus proving that the one they had mercilessly crucified was their promised Messiah who had absolute authority as “*Lord and Christ*”!

“NO CLASS OF TRUTHS COULD HAVE BEEN SO WELL ADAPTED TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION OF THEIR GUILT THAN THESE.”

ALBERT BARNES

I. THEIR PIERCED HEARTS

ACTS 2:37

Suddenly the sharp pain of the weight of truth stabbed their consciences! Though they had seen all the infinite, merciful display of supernatural evidence that Jesus was Lord, they had carelessly dismissed it all and had betrayed

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 4:30 PM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB ROOM 312 SENATOR CARRICO’S OFFICE

Virginia

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Him to be cruelly killed by their Roman oppressors—by the curse of crucifixion! They had failed to believe what they really knew to be true, and now their long awaited Messiah, the hope of Israel was gone, and it was not just that they had allowed someone to kill Him, they had called for His blood and demanded His unjust execution! Forever gone, He had ascended to heaven until God would make His enemies (themselves), “a footstool” under His feet. And it was Jesus who had sent the loud, violent wind from heaven to gather them that they all might immediately receive the announcement in their own language that they had sacrificed their Sovereign King, now Lord of the Universe! They know that they are under God’s wrath for their unthankful and continual sin against God and His Son, so they cry out in agony of heart to the Apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

“PETER REALLY INDICTED THE JEWS AS THE EXECUTIONERS OF THEIR OWN MESSIAH. HE DIDN'T PLAY AROUND IN THE PERIPHERY, HE WENT RIGHT TO THE CORE OF THE PROBLEM. YOU SEE, THE MOST BLATANT SIN THAT A MAN COMMITS, IS THE SIN OF REJECTING JESUS CHRIST.”
JOHN MACARTHUR

II. THEIR PROMISED FORGIVENESS ACTS 2:38-39

Peter’s answer is amazing. They are again being offered escape from the eternal wrath they deserve! But there is only one means of promised forgiveness. The first word, “repent,” is an imperative or a command in the aorist tense meaning that Christ is requiring a single heart change. “Repent” means “to change one’s mind” and it is used in the New Testament of turning from sin to God. It is forsaking the path of sin and rebellion as an enemy of God and embracing Christ in submission to His rightful reign as Lord. Then they are commanded to individually prove that change to the path of obedience

to Christ by being baptized in His name. It is the first public step of obedience after repentance. “Each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.” His commands provide “forgiveness of your sins” and “the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Peter revealed that this gracious promise was not only extended to them, but also to their children and even the “far away” Gentiles. “As many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.” God graciously even gives the ability to obey his commands as He calls us to Himself.

“COME UNTO ME, ALL WHO ARE WEARY AND HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM GENTLE AND HUMBLE IN HEART; AND YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT.”
MATTHEW 11:28-30

III. THEIR PERVERSE FORSAKEN ACTS 2:40-41

Luke makes it clear that Peter had much more in his sermon. “And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’” “Perverse” means “crooked” in contrast to “straight,” “perverted” in contrast to “wholesome” or “good.” Soon, in 70 AD, God destroyed that generation as over a million Jews were annihilated by the Romans when Jerusalem was destroyed. But, “those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” Suddenly, that day 3000 were saved!

“ENTER BY THE NARROW GATE; FOR THE GATE IS WIDE AND THE WAY IS BROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ARE THOSE WHO ENTER BY IT. FOR THE GATE IS SMALL, AND THE WAY IS NARROW THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND FEW ARE THOSE WHO FIND IT.”
MATTHEW 7:13-14

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you ever repented and forsaken the path of sin and rebellion as an enemy of God?
- 2) Have you demonstrated your repentance by obedience in baptism?
- 3) What are you doing to see souls added to the kingdom of Christ?