



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Second Sermon in the Capital: Repent or Perish!

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Acts 3:19-26

“Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. 20) and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21) whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. 22) Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED in everything He says to you. 23) And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ 24) And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days. 25) It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’ 26) For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.” (NASB)

“REPENTANCE, WHEN IT TAKES PLACE IN MASSE, CAN SET THE CYCLE IN PLACE THAT LEADS TO THE COMPLETION OF GOD’S PLAN, THE ARRIVAL OF THE TIMES OF REFRESHING, AND THE SENDING OF THE CHRIST.” DARRELL BOCK

What does it mean to “repent”? When are the times of refreshing and restoration? How is it possible for souls that are eternal to be “utterly destroyed”? To whom was Jesus sent “first” and what is the greatest blessing He was sent to do for them?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > FEBRUARY 20: ACTS 4:1-15 *KINDNESS FROM THE CONGRESS OF ISRAEL?*
- > FEBRUARY 27: ACTS 4:15-31 *PERSECUTION BROUGHT GREATER BOLDNESS!*

Due to the total depravity of man, God has always sent His prophets to proclaim the need for repentance. From the first parents in the Garden of Eden to the final ones in the last days, repentance is the most vital message from God. The New Testament begins with the two opposite political parties ruling Israel coming to hear John the Baptist and Jesus Christ and the first words that they preach are, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mt. 3:2, 4:17). Jesus preaches the precise message twice when He addresses the arrogance of those who had escaped surprise murder by their Roman king and who had escaped a falling tower when He says, “Except ye repent, ye will all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:3, 5). That is the message that could be applied to all of us who survived 9/11 and the essential message Peter preached to those in His capital. God grants repentance through: 1) His revealed Truth (Lk. 16:30-31); 2) Fear of His Judgment (Acts 3:23, 17:30-31); 3) His goodness and kindness (Romans 2:4); and 4) Godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:9-10).

“GOD DOES FAR MORE THAN MERELY CROSS OUT BELIEVERS’ SINS, HE WIPES THEM AWAY COMPLETELY. THEY ARE GONE BEYOND THE POSSIBILITY OF REVIEW OR RECALL. EVEN THEIR HORRIBLE SIN OF REJECTING AND EXECUTING THEIR MESSIAH WAS NOT INDELIBLE AND COULD BE WIPED AWAY” JOHN MACARTHUR

I. BENEFITS OF REPENTANCE

ACTS 3:19-21

The command to “repent” is precisely the same as Peter’s first message in Acts 2:38 and it means to change your mind and your life. It is a change in thinking that results

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

Virginia

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in a change of behavior. The second imperative, “return” is used primarily of sinners turning to God. Both of these commands have the benefit, “*that your sins may be wiped away.*” This is the only path to forgiveness of sin that God gives. Israel had pursued the wrong conclusion about Jesus Christ and had murdered their Messiah. They were being commanded to repent and reverse their verdict about Jesus Christ and receive Him as their Lord and Messiah King. With their repentance would come “*times of refreshing*” from heaven. The nation is graciously being offered the Kingdom of God again in spite of their rebellion against God. If they will return to Him, they may be granted again their Messiah, “*the Christ appointed for you.*” Peter is thinking the final question the Apostles asked Christ in Acts 1:6, “*Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the Kingdom to Israel?*” Jesus said, “*It is not for you to know the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.*” The same word for “*times*” is used in “*times of refreshing*” and the same word for “*epochs*” is used of the “*period*” of restoration in verse 21. Jesus, “*whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things*” will return when “*all Israel will be saved*” (Romans 11:26).

“WHAT LOVE CAN COMPARE WITH THE LOVE THAT LETS OUR SINS BE THE INSTRUMENT OF DELIVERING UP THE PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR SIN – A SACRIFICE WHICH SO SOON RETURNS IN THE CALL OF GOD TO BELIEVE IN JESUS FOR OUR OWN SALVATION BY HIS FREE GRACE?”
GORDON KEDDIE

II. WARNING TOWARD REPENTANCE ACTS 3:22-23

All the prophets had pointed to this final kingdom led by the Messiah, but especially Moses who wrote the Torah (first five books). Peter reminds them of the command regarding the greater prophet even as predicted by Moses. “*THE LORD GOD SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED in*

everything He says to you.” Israel’s rabbis had taught them that this prophet like Moses was indeed the Messiah, so Peter is reminding them of the required necessity from Scripture of obedience to this prophet, the one they had just crucified! If they continued to add insult to injury, “*it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.*” This word for “*utterly destroyed*” is used numerous times in the Greek Old Testament and points both to death and separation from the people of God. Thus it would refer to the second death revealed so clearly in Revelation 21:8.

“THOSE WHO PERSIST IN REJECTING JESUS CHRIST, WHETHER JEW OR GENTILE, WILL FORFEIT GOD’S PROMISED BLESSINGS. THEY WILL BE UTTERLY DESTROYED FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE—KILLED AND DAMNED.”
JOHN MACARTHUR

III. OPPORTUNITY IN REPENTANCE ACTS 3:24-26

Now Peter points to all the prophets “*from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.*” Christ is the theme of the entire Old Testament as all the prophets looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. But they were specifically linked to the blessing, “*you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’*” They were “*first*” recipients of “*His Servant*” who was “*sent to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.*” Their turning is God’s great blessing!

“IF THE HEALING OF A MAN’S BODY WAS SUCH A SOURCE OF JOY . . . WHAT MUST THE HEALING OF THE SOUL BE? . . . PRISTINE HAPPINESS . . . THE COMMENCEMENT OF HEAVEN UPON EARTH.”
GORDON KEDDIE

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you repented and embraced Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- 2) Are you continuing to reject Christ and presume upon His grace when eternal death is promised?
- 3) Do you enjoy the refreshment and restoration found only in Jesus Christ?