

The Gospel is for All
Acts 2:14-41
Notes

14But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. 15For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; 16but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

*17‘And it shall be in the last days,’ God says,
‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind;
And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
And your young men shall see visions,
And your old men shall dream dreams;*

*18Even on My bondslaves, both men and women,
I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit
And they shall prophesy.*

*19And I will grant wonders in the sky above
And signs on the earth below,
Blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke.*

*20The sun will be turned into darkness
And the moon into blood,
Before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come.*

21And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

22“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— 23this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. 25For David says of Him,

*‘I saw the Lord always in my presence;
For He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken.*

*26Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted;
Moreover my flesh also will live in hope;*

*27Because You will not abandon my soul to Hades,
Nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.*

*28You have made known to me the ways of life;
You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.’*

29“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, 31he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. 32This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured

forth this which you both see and hear. 34For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at My right hand,

35Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.'"

36Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

37Now 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?" 38Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." 40And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" 41So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:14-41)

The church's first sermon came from Peter, the same Peter who just weeks earlier denied Christ, shied away from people when it mattered most; who was not a trained preacher or speaker.

But Peter had something to say and he said it in the power of the Spirit.

When you are living for the gospel the Spirit of God empowers your life.

In verses 14-21 Peter uses several Old Testament passages to show how the Gospel was foretold long before it happened.

As Pentecost took place and the 120 believers began to speak in tongues crowds began to gather.

Many thought the crowd was drunk, but Peter said they were not drunk since it was only 9:00am.

The believers were not filled with wine, but with the Holy Spirit.

Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32 showing that the church age is the beginning of the end.

The "last days" in Joel were not the end of time, but the last days in salvation history.

Joel prophesied after a locust plague and severe famine and Peter used this to say while Joel was prophesying for his day he was also prophesying to the day of Pentecost.

The prophesying in verses 17-18 was preaching the gospel, which was done by the 120 believers.

The most important verse here is verse 21 which states, *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

The gospel message is for all people, all times, all cultures, all ethnicities, and countries.

No matter a person's sin, past, or potential future, the gospel can be applied to his or her life.

From verses 22-36 Peter lays out 3 crucial parts of the gospel

- Jesus was crucified
- Jesus was resurrected
- Jesus was exalted

Before Peter dives into the gospel message he pauses on verse 22 to show how Jesus' life and ministry was authenticated by God through miracles, wonders, and signs.

This humble carpenter from Nazareth performed miracles (works of power- water into wine), wonders (acts with supernatural meaning-fishes and loaves), and signs (true proof of divine activity-raising Lazarus).

These miracles, wonders, and signs were not isolated events relegated to a few people but were done throughout Jesus' ministry and observed by thousands of people.

The record we have of Jesus in the four Gospels shows a real historical person whose life demonstrates he is the Messiah.

We have over 24,000 copies of the New Testament. Compare this with 30 copies of Plato's writings and 650 copies of Homer's *Iliad*. The historical literary record of Jesus is another way we can know the Gospel's we have are the real gospels.

Jesus was Crucified (v. 23)

Now Peter hit them where it hurts. "I remember when Jesus did that..."

More than likely there were many in the crowd that shouted to have Jesus crucified. They knew exactly what Peter was talking about because they were there!

Sinful men acted sinfully to kill God's son, but it didn't take God by surprise. God appointed Jesus to death.

Listen to his words, "**you** nailed him to the cross." Peter doesn't sugar coat it. Your sin, you nailed him to the cross.

Sin has to be confronted head on for it to be addressed, for there to be a recognition of sin so that true repentance may take place.

In our culture it is popular to blunt the razor sharp edge of the gospel so as to make it more easily acceptable, but the church's first sermon preached by Peter goes right for the heart.

Why is there a need to be honest and up front about the reality of sin? Sin is horrible and it must be shown why Jesus had to die.

Peter addresses this and reminds them of Jesus' actual physical crucifixion and death.

The death of Jesus is the crux which the gospel hinges on. If there was no real, physical death, then there could be no forgiveness of sins.

And for the believer, his death is an example of how we are to die to ourselves each day.

Jesus was Resurrected (v. 24)

Jesus not only lived and died he was resurrected.

Peter quotes from Psalm 16:8-11 in which David prophesies about the coming Messiah conquering death.

David placed his hope of resurrection upon the conquering Messiah.

Paul says in **1 Cor. 15:56-7**, “*56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

If the Messiah was supposed to rise from the dead and Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus must be the Messiah.

Jesus’ resurrection demonstrates he was who he said he was and he can do what he said he would do.

Peter says at least these 120 eyewitnesses saw him and Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:6 he appeared to more than 500 people.

The reason the resurrection is so important is because if the resurrection is false then our faith is also.

The resurrection proves the death of Jesus satisfied the requirement for sin.

We can know for sure that our faith is solid and stands on solid ground in Jesus’ resurrection.

Jesus was exalted (v. 33)

Jesus, following his resurrection, ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God.

Paul shows in Rom. 8:34 that Jesus sits at His Father’s righthand interceding for us.

The exaltation of Jesus demonstrates he is fully God.

Peter also quotes from King David to show the royalty of Jesus.

34 For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:

‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, 35 Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”’

David is prophesying here showing that the Father telling the Son to sit at his right hand until he makes his enemies his footstool-glorifies Christ above all.

Jesus sitting at the right hand of the Father makes everything Jesus said and did valid.

This Peter who just a few weeks earlier denied Christ, has now preached the church’s first sermon recounting the divinity of Christ, the death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, the ascension of Christ, and the glory of Christ.

Following a presentation of the gospel the hearers were convicted of their sin and asked, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

The proper response to the gospel message is to repent of your sin.

True repentance requires a change of mind and attitude.

The gospel shows us our sin and the price of our sin is death and hell.

Repentance does not mean feeling sorry. (WORLDLY SORROW) Repentance is seeing our sin as a “criminal offense against God”, asking forgiveness, and turning to him for the remainder of your life.

Even the believer needs to respond in repentance throughout their life.

Following belief in Christ, Peter instructs them to be baptized.

Peter lets them know that believing in Christ will result in the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Following repentance, believers should follow through with baptism, showing the world they are now identified with Jesus and the church.

There is some confusion with verse 38 which Peter says, *“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

Some individuals incorrectly state that baptism is a requirement for salvation. This is an unnecessary requirement for salvation.

The only requirement for salvation is faith in Jesus’ finished work.

The confusion comes in the English translation’s word “for.” “For” is the Greek word “eis.”

While “eis” is translated several ways in this passage it is best understood as “in respect to.”

Since the New Testament as a whole does not teach baptism as a requirement for salvation we can know that what Peter is speaking of here is that baptism takes place as a result of salvation and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.