

"Peter's Sermon"

Part 8

Acts 2

Introduction: Last week in our study of Acts we stopped on Acts 2:39 and it was in this verse that Peter spoke of the grace of God toward his listeners as well as to all mankind.

I. God's Grace

Part 2

Notice Acts 2:39

The promise is "*whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Acts 2:21). These people were under the conviction of the Holy Spirit because after they had heard Peter's sermon, they realized that they had crucified the Messiah. Even though they had cried out for the death of Jesus, God still longed to see these people and their children saved. The offer was not only to these people but also to the Gentiles who were afar off.

Ephesians 2:11-13

¹¹ *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;*

¹² *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

Notice Acts 2:40

Here we see that we do not have record of all that Peter said. He most likely pleaded with his listeners to come to Jesus Christ. He then called on his listeners to save themselves from their wicked generation. The word "untoward" means "wicked and perverse." The very multitude that Peter was speaking to were Christ hating Jews. Notice their words:

John 19:15-16

¹⁵ But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

¹⁶ Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

Luke 23:18-21, 23

¹⁸ And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas:

¹⁹ (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)

²⁰ Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them.

²¹ But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him.

²³ And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed.

Peter's listeners were part of this crowd that called for the death of Jesus. Peter now calls on them to separate by repenting and believing that Jesus Christ was the Messiah and to be baptized.

Application:

What Peter did here is also our responsibility. We are to call people out of this Christ hating generation and plead with them to get saved.

Let us understand that people who never hear the Gospel and die in their sins will go to hell.

Romans 1:18-20

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that **they are without excuse:**

Romans 10:13-14, 16

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and **how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?**

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

II. The Change

Notice Acts 2:41-42

That day the Holy Spirit used the sermon of Peter and about 3000 people were saved and baptized. This baptism would have taken quite some time. There would have been 12 Apostles doing the baptizing, but it would have still taken a while. These people then continued stedfastly in 4 practices that marked a great change in their lives.

1. The Apostle's Doctrine.

We have looked at this before, but it is good to be reminded again. These believers were the beginning of the New Testament church, but they did not have a New Testament Bible. They therefore followed the teaching of the Apostles which they had received from the Lord while they walked with Him. These believers had a deep desire to learn which was a true sign that their faith was real.

John 8:30-32

³⁰ As he spake these words, many believed on him.

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**

³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

1 John 2:3-6

³ And hereby we do know that we know him, **if we keep his commandments.**

⁴ *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

⁵ *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

⁶ *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

Let us get back to the Apostle's Doctrine again.

Notice Acts 2:43

The Apostles did many wonders and signs. This was not for entertainment, but it was to show that their message was authentic. Keep in mind that Satan would bring false apostles on the stage to attempt to confuse people as they preached a false gospel.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*

¹⁴ *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

¹⁵ *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

The apostolic gifts were evidence that the message of the true Apostles was from God.

2. Fellowship.

The early church continued steadfastly in fellowship. These people longed to be gathered together with other believers because they had so much in common.

Ephesians 4:3-7

³ *Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

⁴ *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

⁵ *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

⁶ *One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

⁷ *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

Believers are of the same body, we all have the Holy Spirit, we all have the same hope, we worship the same Lord, we share in the same baptism, we have the same Father, we all partake of God's grace, and we all have been given spiritual gifts. There is no greater unity on earth than what the church has.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

⁴ *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

⁵ *And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.*

⁶ *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

⁷ **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.**

I show you these verses to help us to see that we are to gather together and exercise our gifts to profit one another. We have different gifts but the end result of exercising them is the same. The gifts are given to edify the body of Jesus Christ. Therefore, fellowship with fellow believers is so very important.

Let us notice the words of Paul to see what our hearts should desire.

Romans 1:10-12

¹⁰ *Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.*

¹¹ **For I long to see you,** *that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;*

¹² *That is, **that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.***

3. Breaking of Bread.

This was remembering the Lord's death. This was the church being obedient to Jesus' command.

Luke 22:19-20

¹⁹ *And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: **this do in remembrance of me.***

²⁰ Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

To partake of the Lord's Table is very important to the church. First of all we are commanded to do so and second it reminds the church of the cross which is vitally important.

1 Corinthians 1:17-18

¹⁷ For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

It was on the old rugged cross that our sins were paid for. It was on the cross that our sin nature was crucified with Christ and thus rendered powerless. It was on the cross that we see the greatest demonstration of the love of God. It was on the cross that we learn of the amazing grace of God. The list goes on and on. The point is that the church must NEVER lose site of the cross and the communion service should never become a ritual. We should long to gather together and remember the sacrifice that our Savior made for us.

4. Prayer.

Prayer for the church is essential. It is not you and me trying to convince God to get in line with our will. Prayer is the believer coming in line with God's will. So many churches today have eliminated prayer meeting and then they cannot figure out why they are weak and struggling. When we pray, we are depending upon the Lord and on His power to meet the needs of our lives.

Conclusion:

Here in this verse are four marks of a healthy church.

- a. Study the Word.
- b. Gather together in fellowship.
- c. Never lose sight of the cross.
- d. Stedfast in prayer.