

LESSON 13

GREAT BIBLE THEMES

Today we want to complete our brief study of the events recorded in Acts 2. A review of our last lesson should serve as a good starting point. Notice the following questions: . . .

1. Can you state the difference between what the apostles received and what the people received on the day of Pentecost?
2. The Holy Spirit was to convict the world of sin. What means were used on this occasion to convince them that they had sinned against God?
3. Give at least six elements of Christ's instructions to his apostles that were brought out in the conversion of the 3,000.
4. What could you say about how people were added to the group of believers, and by whom they were added?

LET US LOOK TO THE BIBLE FOR OUR ANSWERS

The result of Peter's sermon is given in verse 41. "Then they that gladly _____ were _____: and the same day there were added unto them about _____ souls." We have noticed previously that the Lord's kingdom was to grow by planting the word of God in the hearts of men. Is the idea brought out in this verse that these

who were baptized had accepted Peter's message into their hearts? Another contrast will help us to understand more about how this group of three thousand became citizens in God's kingdom. The apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but the people received, not the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but the message of the Holy Spirit and were obedient to it.

These events also give us an inspired record of what Jesus meant when he promised that the Holy Spirit would "Convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment". (John 16:8 American Standard Version). Here this group of people were convinced that they were sinners before God, they felt guilty of their unrighteous acts. What method was used to accomplish this end? The Holy Spirit had a very definite part in it, but did the Holy Spirit go directly in to the hearts of the people to convince them of sin or did the Holy Spirit give the message which was proclaimed to the people? This is an important question in view of the fact that its answer for that day should be the answer for today. Would it be correct to say that the Holy Spirit gave the message that the apostles preached and that those who gladly received this message obeyed and were promised the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit?

It has been pointed out that the apostles were speaking as directed by the Holy Spirit. This would prove that the message delivered that day was of divine origin and not the product of man's own planning.

Re-read verses 37 and 38 at this point. If we had been familiar with Christ's instructions to his apostles, would we have expected Peter to tell those who were inquiring about what they should do to repent and be baptized? Notice these verses.

Matthew 28:18-19, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All _____ is _____ _____ in _____ and _____. Go ye therefore, and _____ all _____, baptizing them in the name of the _____, and of the _____, and of the _____."

Mark 16:15-16, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the _____ to every creature. He that _____ and is _____."

Luke 24:46-47, "And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that _____ and _____ should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

It is easy to see that Peter on the day of Pentecost followed these instructions perfectly. He taught them, he preached to them, they believed, they repented, they were baptized, they had the promise of remission of sins. Each of these six elements was included in Christ's instructions to them.

If the promises of forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit were to be enjoyed by those who repented and were baptized on that occasion only, they would have very little value for us today. Let us notice, however, just who these promises were for. See verse 39. "For the promise is _____, and to _____ and to all that _____, even as many as the Lord our God shall

call.” Would we understand Peter to mean that these promises may be held out to people in the twentieth century on the same conditions as set forth on this occasion?

This was to be a growing kingdom which means that others would be added to this number of believers. This suggests another important point in our study, namely, under what conditions were people to be added to this group and by what authority were they to be added? We may think of the apostles as forming the nucleus of this working group. Verse 41 speaks of others being added to them. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were

_____ about three thousand souls.” Notice the teaching of the last part of verse 47 regarding the authority for adding others. “And the

_____ daily such as should _____.”

Would it be proper for us to think that others were added to the church by the authority of some of the leaders, or does this verse definitely state that the Lord adds those who are being saved to the church? Is this in harmony with the fact that Christ spoke of it as my church and that this was to be a divine institution and not a manmade one?

TEST

1. As a result of Peter's sermon, about 3,000 were baptized. They were the ones who had: (a) received the Holy Spirit, (b) gladly received the word Peter spoke, (c) been selected by the apostles, (d) been able to speak in other tongues.

2. We referred to six elements in Christ's commission to the apostles as given by Matthew, Mark and Luke. Which one of the following is NOT mentioned? On the day of Pentecost, (a) Peter preached, (b) the multitude was taught, (c) they believed, (d) they repented, (e) they were baptized, (f) they were instructed to pray for salvation. _____

3. When was remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit promised? (a) Immediately upon belief in Christs, (b) Before they did anything, (c) After they believed, repented and were baptized, (d) After Peter personally absolved them from sin, (e) There is nothing in Acts 2 to show how anyone received remission or forgiveness of sin. _____

4. Verse 39 suggests that the promises of forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit were: (a) only for those who heard on that occasion, (b) only for them and their children, (c) only for the Jewish nation, (d) for all who should be called by the Lord in that and all future generations.

5. There were daily additions to the early church. Others were added: (a) by the authority of the apostles, (b) by the authority of the members of the church, (c) by showing the

good works they had done, (d) by the Lord.

6. Baptism was to be administered: (a) in the name of Jesus only, (b) in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, (c) by the authority of some denomination, (d) only when a person wanted to join some denomination, but not for the remission of sins. _____
7. Jesus taught that: (a) man shall be saved the moment he believes, (b) man shall be saved before he is baptized, (c) man shall be saved when he believes and is baptized, (d) man believes and is saved, than baptized if he wants to be.

8. After Peter told the people to repent and be baptized, he told them: (a) to save themselves, (b) to wait for the Holy Spirit to convict them, (c) they could not be saved if they were not of the elect. _____
9. These converts: (a) soon became disinterested, (b) continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, etc., (c) set up their own written creed and wrote a discipline to govern themselves. _____
10. The three thousand who were baptized joined the church of their choice. (True or False) _____

Correct answers to questions in Lesson 12:

1. (d)
2. (a)

3. (False)
4. (c)
5. (b)
6. (a)
7. (can not)
8. (c)
9. (c)
10. (b)