

Acts of the Apostles 2:37-38 __ Lesson 08

Repent and Be Baptized

1. Acts 2:37

- a. This passage has been grossly misappropriated to be the saving gospel for today
- b. *“when they heard this”* – heard what? Acts 2:36 – the accusation of killing Jesus
- c. They did not hear the gospel of grace here or Gal 6:14
- d. *“pricked in their heart”* – This is guilt: an idea scorned by postmodern people
- e. *“what shall we do”* – all of them (ye), not an individual – see Mt 19:16, Ac 16:30

2. Acts 2:38

- a. Used to teach baptismal regeneration, sacramental grace, and Jesus only
- b. *“Repent”* – is not ‘turn from sins’ or a work, but to change your mind
- c. *“Repent and be baptized”* – the same message as John – Mk 1:4, but there is more
- d. *“for the remission of sins...”* – Clearly, baptism was required here (Mk 16:16)
- e. If they do not submit to it, then are not converting – John 12:42 (Mt 10:32),
- f. You could not stand on the side and still follow Christ - Matt 3:7-8, Luke 7:30
- g. If you don’t receive the Holy Ghost, either Peter is a liar, or you are (Ro 3:4)
- h. 2:39-40 – Not the BoC, but calling out Israel – 2:39-40; Dan 9:7, Lev 26:40

3. Why Baptism?

- a. ‘It is an ordinance of the church’, really? It started in the OT, Heb 9:15-17, Col 2:14
- b. ‘It pictures the death, burial, and resurrection’, really? Luke 9:44-45, Mk 9:31-32
- c. ‘It is a testimony of salvation’, really? How, if no one knew the gospel?
- d. ‘Jesus commanded it’, really? In commissions that have been repealed? Gal 2:7-9
- e. ‘Follow the Lord in baptism’, really? Matt 3:15, Lev 1:1-9
- f. Jesus’ baptism had a purpose to identify himself with Israel, law, ministry– Jo 1:30
- g. Baptism was a Jewish ritual for identification, cleaning, conversion – Exo 40:12

4. Why Acts 2:38 is Not Our Gospel

- a. Paul says he was sent not to baptize – 1 Cor 1:17
- b. We are strangers from the promises of Israel – Eph 2:11-12
- c. The good news of the cross is missing from the chapter – 1 Cor 15:1-4
- d. Our work does not justify us – Rom 4:5, Titus 3:5
- e. Our sins are forgiven through his blood, not just his name – Col 1:14, Ro 3:25
- f. We are baptized by one spirit with one baptism – 1 Cor 12:13, Eph 4:4
- g. We know salvation to be not of works or boasting – Eph 2:8-9