

The First Gospel Sermon Acts 2:1-4

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The church began in the first century with its first _____ of salvation. We're going to look at the beginning of the church and _____ the first gospel sermon. The Bible opens for us _____ of understanding. It helps us to see things as they _____ are from God's point of view. If all we _____ is what the world thinks or what some religious leader believes, we may miss hearing God for ourselves. If all we _____ is what we experience or feel, we may miss hearing God's bigger picture. God has spoken in His Word the things we most _____ to know about life and godliness.

Jesus made a _____ to the apostles in Acts 1:6-8. They had asked him, "Lord, will you at this time _____ the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own _____. But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Jesus promised they would be filled with power of the Holy Spirit, and serve as _____ to all the earth.

The Scriptures reveal _____ this promise began to be fulfilled in Acts 2. The book of Acts shows how the apostles took the _____ to Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, and to the world. What they said in the beginning is essential to our understanding of Christianity. Their first century _____ is for all _____ in all _____ and in all places. For this reason, we must pay _____ attention to what Luke by inspiration preserved for us in this Acts chapter 2. This is what God wanted the people of Jerusalem to know about _____, and what He wants us to know as well and how we should _____ to our sins.

Our reading today comes from Acts 2:1-4. This is at the beginning of the church, and it's the beginning and the setting for this first gospel sermon. This tells us of the great miraculous power of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

The day of Pentecost was one of the _____ required feasts that the Israelites had to attend. The day fell _____ days after the day of Passover and was originally a harvest festival. This feast also commemorated Moses' giving of the _____ on Sinai. This Pentecost was just 50 days after the crucifixion of Jesus. So, His disciples had spent _____ days with Jesus after His resurrection. This first day of the week, on the day of Pentecost, marked the beginning of the _____. Three visible miracles occurred together that made the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost an unmistakable and unique event: first, the rushing, mighty _____; second, the visible _____ that rested on the apostles; and third, the apostles speaking in "other _____." These "tongues" were recognized as the "native languages" of the visitors and strangers who'd come to Jerusalem for the festival.

Read Acts 2:5-11.

Acts 2:12-15 tells of an accusation and how Peter _____ it. "And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this _____? (talking about them speaking in the tongues).' But others mocking said, 'They are filled with new _____.' But Peter, standing with the

eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not _____, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.’” Some will mock anything they don’t _____; but Peter answers their objections first from a practical standpoint (that it’s only 9 am) and then second from a biblical prophecy.

Peter explains what has taken place. He said, “But this is _____ was uttered through the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32): ‘And in the _____ days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall _____. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be _____’” (Acts 2:16-21).

The Jews knew this prophecy and they knew the day would come when God’s Spirit would be poured out and people could be saved. Peter then turns to speaking about Jesus and what this means and he does this in Acts 2:22-23. Peter says, “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite _____ and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and _____ by the hands of lawless men.”

The miraculous works Jesus performed were very well _____. In fact, the chief priests were _____ about Him. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs (that is, miracles). If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation” (John 11:47-48). They decided to _____ Jesus and then they incited the people to _____ in crucifying Him at the hands of Pilate. The people knew this.

But the death of Jesus was not the _____ message. Peter, with the eleven, boldly said, “God _____ him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David (in Psalm 16:8-11) says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in _____. For you will not _____ my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence’” (Acts 2:24-28).

Peter explains that David wasn’t speaking about _____ in this prophecy. Acts 2:29-32 says, “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his _____ is with us to this day. Being therefore a _____, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the _____ of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are _____.” The apostles had seen Jesus, touched Him, heard Him speak, and ate with Him. Acts 1:3 says Jesus “presented himself _____ to them (the apostles) after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”

Someone asked where is Jesus now? Acts 2:33-36 says, “Being therefore _____ at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has _____ out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says (Psalm 110:1), ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my _____ hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for _____ that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Peter argued clearly that Jesus is indeed an historic person and the Messiah, that the people knew Him and the _____ that He’d worked, that Jesus was crucified and they were witnesses that He _____ from the dead. Peter preached the Scriptures prophecy of his death and resurrection. Fulfilling these passages Jesus is _____ God’s Christ, God’s Messiah. He is Lord and King!

Acts 2:37 says, “Now when they heard this, they were _____ to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’” J. W. McGarvey, a scholar from the nineteenth century wrote in his commentary on Acts:

“That in this exclamation, what shall we do, they tacitly confessed their _____ of what Peter had preached; and the statement they were pierced to the heart shows that they felt keenly the _____ which the facts that they now believed were intended to inspire. Since Peter began to speak, a _____ had taken place in both their convictions and their feelings. They now believe that Jesus is the Christ, and they are pierced to the heart with the thought that they have _____ him.” The people heard and received this message, and it brought them to _____. Romans 10:17 stands true, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the _____ of Christ.”

These guilty men asked, “What shall we _____?” They knew they had crucified the Lord Jesus Christ. If they had not believed what Peter said, they would surely have never asked what they could do to get _____ of their great sin and guilt. What they were asking was, “What shall we do to be saved, or to be _____ of this sin?” This is the first time under the reign of Christ, who is on the throne with the Father, that people in sin asked this momentous question; and this is the first time that an inspired _____ is given.

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For 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” (Acts 2:38-39). Verses 40 to 41 continue: “with many other _____ he (Peter) bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about _____ thousand souls.”

Whatever the right answer in earlier days may have been, whether during the days of the Old Testament or during the earthly ministry of Jesus, Peter by the direction of the Holy Spirit gave this true and infallible answer at the beginning of the _____ of Jesus upon the throne at the right hand of the Father! This answer from that time forward to the end of the world is the _____ answer to everyone in every place! This not only taught them what to do; it also teaches us today what to do to be delivered from the _____ of our own sins. If you wish to have forgiveness of sins, repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. This is God’s inspired message.

The commandment “be baptized” or “be immersed” is a passive imperative, meaning that one must allow someone to _____ upon him or her. The human baptizer is acting upon the baptized person,

who is passive and receives the action; in the same way, God is _____ spiritually upon us when we're baptized. In baptism, we're not the ones acting; God is acting upon us. It is God who _____, God who _____ us to His church, God who _____ us to be born again, God who _____ us His child, God who _____ us with Christ, God who _____ us up with Christ to walk in newness of life, and God who _____ us. Repenting, confessing our faith in Jesus Christ, and being baptized is when we _____ to His will, merely responding to what He has commanded us. God is _____ in our baptism and our salvation, and we are _____. God acts upon us, and we receive His _____. He saves us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit according to Titus 3:5. My friend, that's what God does in baptism: God is washing us _____ in the blood of Jesus and giving us new life! In baptism, we are regenerated or born again!

Peter with many other words "bore witness and continued to _____ them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation'" (Acts 2:40). Peter taught them what they needed to know and encouraged them to _____. Some say that we can do _____ toward our salvation, but Peter told them to "Save yourselves!" No one can save themselves by themselves; we're saved by the _____ of God. But we do, however, act in _____ in order to accept His promised blessing. Why? Because He _____ us to. This doesn't mean that we _____ salvation but it does mean that we _____ and act upon His required conditions to be forgiven and to become children of God.

Who were the 3,000 that gladly received his message, that wanted to be saved, and be baptized? They weren't _____ who couldn't understand or believe. They were believers who were old enough to _____ and _____. They were young and old, educated and unschooled, priests and common Jews! Whoever they were, they knew that they were sinners in _____ of the grace of God. My friend, do you need the grace of God?

You may wonder, "What about Acts 2:21?" It says, "And it shall come to pass that everyone who _____ upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Doesn't that teach one can be saved by simply _____ for forgiveness? Many people believe that, but we've got to _____ the Scriptures to see how one calls upon the name of the Lord. First, let's consider Acts 22:16. Ananias told Saul of Tarsus, "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name." Calling on the name of the Lord occurs when one is _____ into Christ. Second, let's examine 1 Peter 3:21: "Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an _____ to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Baptism appeals to God for a good conscience. One's conscience is still in need of cleansing prior to baptism. In baptism, we receive from God the _____ of forgiveness, which gives us a clean conscience. One thing is sure: the Scriptures never _____ one to pray the "sinner's prayer" to be saved. This is a modern innovation, not a Biblical instruction. Paul prayed for three days (Acts 9:11), and yet he still needed his sins _____ away (Acts 22:16).

The people at Pentecost didn't _____ with Peter about how to be saved. All 3000 understood his message alike and _____. They gladly received Peter's message (Acts 2:38), "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." I pray that you too will gladly receive the gospel message, that you'll repent of your sins, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.