

Conversions in Acts

"Repentance"

Introduction:

1. In Acts 1:8, Jesus gave the apostles a specific plan for carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).
2. As Luke showed how this plan was implemented in Acts, he also wrote about a number of conversions that occurred.
3. Studying these conversions helps us understand how we are saved from sin today.
4. Luke also wrote in Acts about a number of important subjects that relate to salvation, including "repentance."

Discussion:

- I. PRIOR TO THE EVENTS RECORDED IN ACTS, JOHN AND JESUS HAD MUCH TO SAY ABOUT REPENTANCE IN THE GOSPELS
 - A. John:
 1. called upon people to repent as he preached (Matthew 3:1-2)
 2. told the Pharisees and Sadducees to *"bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance"* (Matthew 3:7-8).
 - B. Jesus:
 1. called upon people to repent as He preached (Matthew 4:17)
 2. came to call *"sinners to repentance"* (Matthew 9:12-13)
 3. illustrated the meaning of repentance in one of His parables (Matthew 21:28-32)
 4. said that those who fail to repent will perish (Luke 13:3, 5)
 5. taught that repentance produces joy in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10).
- II. IN ACTS, LUKE RECORDED SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING REPENTANCE
 - A. God requires everyone to repent.
 1. This point is made in Acts 17:30.
 2. More specifically, God requires Jews and Greeks to repent (Acts 20:21).
 - a. God wants Jews to repent (Acts 5:29-31).
 - b. God wants Gentiles to repent.
 - 1) (Acts 26:19-20) After preaching to the Jews, Paul was to show the Gentiles *"that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."*
 - 2) (Acts 11:18) After Peter recounted the conversion of Cornelius and his household, the Jews in Jerusalem agreed that God had *"granted repentance unto life"* to the Gentiles.
 - B. Repentance is a requirement for salvation.
 1. In addition to baptism, repentance is required of those who desire to receive the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
 2. In addition to being converted, repentance is required of those who desire to have their sins blotted out (Acts 3:19).
 - C. Christians are required to repent (Acts 8:22).
- III. FOLLOWING THE EVENTS RECORDED IN ACTS, REPENTANCE WAS ADDRESSED IN THE EPISTLES
 - A. God's goodness leads to repentance (Romans 2:4)
 - B. Godly sorrow also leads to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:8-11).