

Question: “What Shall We Do?”
Acts 2:37-39

Introduction:

This is the most important question that anyone could ask. We all need to know what to do in order to be saved.

I. Notice the setting of this question.

- A. The Holy Spirit had just come on all of the apostles (2:1-4).
- B. There were some in Jerusalem who were from all over the world (2:7-11).
- C. The message that Peter preached to them was simple in its nature (2:22-36).
 - 1. The main point of the message of Peter was that this Jesus, whom they had murdered, was the Son of God.
 - 2. They had seen and heard much of the things that Jesus had said and done.
 - 3. **I Jn. 1:1-3** - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—{2} the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—{3} that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

II. In this question, we see the power of the word of God.

- A. They had just had Jesus preached to them.
 - 1. **I Cor. 2:2** - For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
 - 2. This is all that Peter had done.
- B. When the word of God is preached, people are convicted of their sin.
- C. The word of God was powerful then.
 - 1. We know this because they were “cut to the heart” and wanted to know what to do.
 - 2. We know this because about 3,000 were added to the church that day.
- D. The word of God is still powerful today.
 - 1. **Heb. 4:12** - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- E. This word that Peter preached to them was the truth.
 - 1. **II Tim. 3:16-17** - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - 2. **Jn. 17:17** - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- F. This word that Peter preached had the power to save their souls.
1. **Js. 1:21** - Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
 2. **Rom. 1:16** - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
 3. **I Cor. 1:18** - For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

III. In this question, we understand what it takes in order for us to be saved (2:38).

- A. This was a direct answer to a direct question.
1. The people wanted to know what to do.
 - a. They understood that they had killed the Son of God.
 - b. They were extremely upset (“cut to the heart”).
 - c. They wanted to know what to do to make up for it.
 2. Notice the answer that they were given.
 - a. “Repent and...be baptized.”
 - 1) They had heard the word of God.
 - 2) They obviously believed that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - 3) They needed to repent and be baptized.
 - b. The purpose of baptism is clearly mentioned in this passage.
 - 1) “For the remission of sins.”
 - a) Notice another instance when this phrase is used.
 - b) **Mt. 26:27-28** - Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. {28} For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
 - 2) **Acts 22:16** - And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
 - c. It is a direct answer to a direct question.
- B. This promise was not only made to those on the Day of Pentecost, but it is also available for us today (2:39).

Conclusion: