

## Lesson 5 – Sinners Saved in Christ – Acts 2 and 8

The history of what God has done to save man reached its pentacle when Jesus died and rose again. It is now time for man to hear the good news of salvation and respond. Without man's response of faith, the blood of Christ does not wash away sins. In Acts 2 we find the first sinners saved by the blood of Christ.

### I. Acts 1

A. 1:1-9 – Jesus taken back to Heaven 40 days after resurrection to sit on the throne. He told apostles we wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.

1. *“witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth”* - an outline of the book of Acts. Chapters 1-7 – Jerusalem and Judea, chapters 8 – Samaria, chapters 9-28 – to the end of the earth.

### II. Acts 2

A. 2:1-4 – The Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles.

1. Pentecost was 50 days after the Passover. Jesus died during the Passover. Jesus ascended 40 days after resurrection. A week later = Pentecost.
2. God set the time for the establishment of the church. God showed approval of the message of the apostles with this visual coming of the Spirit. The Spirit will directly give the message to apostles about Jesus.

B. 2:5-13 – Jews from all over the world are gathered.

1. Many would have been present at the crucifixion of Jesus.
2. Apostles spoke in tongues. A miracle to confirm that their message was from God.

C. 2:14-21 – the prophecy was from Joel 2 written about 830 BC. Joel gave the sign of the establishment of the church – the coming of the Spirit.

1. **key idea** - *“whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”*. Salvation is for all of mankind not just the Jews. This was a change from the OT system where the Jews were God's people. Now all can be saved in Jesus.
2. Draw a circle = all the world, sinners, lost, going to Hell. Draw inside of circle = saved, forgiven, the church, going to Heaven.

D. 2:22-36 – sermon of Peter, Jesus' death and resurrection was the focal point. Conclusion – vs 36 – Jesus is Lord and Christ.

- E. 2:37-41 – Some of these Jews were personally responsible for Jesus' death but we are all, as sinners, responsible.
1. **key idea** – we must respond to the message of Jesus to be forgiven. We must *repent* – “to turn around” and be *baptized* “immersed” in water for the “*forgiveness of sins*”.
    - a) All is done in the “*name of Jesus*” – He is the One in authority. The first time in the history of the world someone was saved by the actual death of Jesus (not in prospect).
    - b) Draw an arrow from the world to inside the “saved” circle. On the line write is the process: hear, believe, repent, confess and be baptized = salvation.
- F. 2:42-47 – being saved was not the end of the process. Disciples must “continue” to grow, learn, change from the inside out, become more like Christ, be prepared for the Judgment Day.
1. Disciples banded together to form a local church. We need each other to grow and fight against the Devil.

### III. Acts 8

- A. 8:1-4 – The church in Jerusalem was broken up by persecution. The disciples did not quit but preached the message wherever they went. The result – more disciples and therefore more churches.
- B. 8:5-13 – people of Samaria became Christians. Samaritans are half Jew half Gentile.
1. Back to drawing – these Samaritans did the same thing as the Jews to be saved.
- C. 8:14-19 – Simon tried to buy the gift of laying on of hands. This was the way the miraculous gifts of the Spirit were passed on.
1. We have no gifts today because: the purpose of revealing and confirming the word has been fulfilled, and we have no apostles to lay hands on.
- D. **key idea** – 8:20-25 – When a Christian sins, like Simon, he does not need to be baptized again. He needs to repent and confess this sin to God.
- E. 8:26-34 – The gospel message spread even further. The Eunuch was a Jewish convert (proselyte) who was from North Africa.
- F. 8:35 – Jesus was preached. The details are not given to us but the message was the same.

G. 8:36-40 – the Eunuch needed to believe and be baptized just like the Jews in Acts 2 and Samaritans in Acts 8.

1. **key idea** – If we are going to become disciples of Christ we must do things as Jesus instructs not as tradition has developed.
2. Baptism was immersion (not sprinkling or pouring. First occurrence of pouring water was with Novation in 250 AD. He believed he was too sick to be immersed). Belief was necessary before baptism (babies cannot be baptized).

**IV.** What do you think? Do you believe in Jesus? Are you ready to be baptized?

A. Return to question asked in Lesson 1, “Where are you spiritually?” Compare their answer with what they have learned from the Bible.