

Salvation

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I. Introduction - Acts 3.

- A. Topic: Salvation.
- B. You will draw joy from the wells of salvation. (Isaiah 12:3)
- C. When we are spiritually parched, things often arise out of our past to harass us.

II. Background.

- A. Peter and John saw a lame beggar and instead of giving him money he gave him the ability to walk.
- B. The miracle from God gave Peter the opportunity to share the gospel. Often in the New Testament, the deed comes before the opportunity to share.
- C. The Christian life is not self-help. It is about what God has done for us. We must take time to allow God to do what He wants for us. This is grace.

III. The fact of the gospel.

- A. God planned the events of the gospel before He made the world. (Genesis 3, Genesis 12)
- B. Salvation has its roots in history.
- C. The gospel glorifies God's perfect Son who came to this world, died for our sins, rose to the dead and ascended to heaven sending the Spirit to prove his arrival. He offers us the forgiveness of sins and the hope of His second coming on the condition of faith and repentance.
- D. The most incredible event in the world took place on Good Friday. Jesus made the sinner well.

IV. The application of the gospel: repent and be converted.

- A. To repent is to change one's mind.
 - 1. One night the speaker, unsure whether he had received Christ, bent to his knees and asked Christ to come into his heart as a sinner in need. While this was not an emotional event, he became spiritually alive and began to cultivate a desire for God.
 - 2. Once converted we are to turn around and go in the other direction.
 - a. This is modeled in the ideal husband/wife relationship that is to be one of submission and love.
 - b. Love is a choice that freely accepts another and seeks his or her good.

B. Three consequences of salvation.

1. The past—that sins may be blotted out.
2. The present—that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.
 - a. Whoever confesses and forsakes their sin will receive mercy.
 - b. There is freedom and joy in a good clear conscience. (1 John 1:9)
3. The future—the blessed hope of the return of Jesus.
 - a. We too often grasp too tightly to time and eternity.
 - b. We need to grasp more firmly onto eternity.

Application questions

1. Why is it important to recognize the “fact” of the gospel? How does this give perspective to the believer?

2. What does it mean to “repent” according to the speaker? Why is salvation not simply just an easy escape from hell like the speaker first thought?

3. Since salvation affects our past, present and future how will you choose to live differently in the present than you are living today?
