

## **The Christian Life – Part 1**

### ***Coming to Christ and Walking in Christ***

Acts 2:36-47; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 10-11-20

#### **The Story of the World**

The book of Acts should be seen and understood in the flow of Redemptive history:

- God and Creation [Genesis 1-2]: *God is good!*
- Man and the Fall [Genesis 3]: *We are not good!*
- Divine Promise and Chosen Israel [Genesis 3 - Malachi]: *God promises to send a Savior!*
- Jesus and Redemption [Matthew – John]: *Jesus took our place!*
- The Spirit and the Free Offer [Acts-Jude]: *Jesus is Lord and an able and willing Savior for you and me! (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)***
- Jesus and Return [Revelation 1-20]: *We must give an account!*
- God and the Consummation [Revelation 21-22]: *The best is yet to come!*

Acts 2 is at the beginning of a sacred history about the coming of the Spirit after the ascension of Christ to His throne and the life and mission of the Church in taking the good news of the free offer of the gospel to all the world. This passage raises two questions for us:

- Have you received the free offer of the gospel?
- How do you need to grow in your Christian life?

#### **The Christian Life**

This passage in Acts 2 is a kind of ‘microcosm’ of the Christian life. It highlights key elements in coming to Christ and walking with Christ.

##### *Coming to Christ*

- **The Conviction of Sin**
- The Call to Repentance and Faith
- The Confession of Baptism

##### *Walking with Christ*

- A Life of Communion
- A Life of Compassion
- A Life of Community

#### **1. In our day, the conviction of sin has given way to the comfort of indulgence and the crusade of victimhood.**

In various ways, people think and speak along these lines:

- ‘God will forgive me; that’s His job.’

- ‘I am what I am and I do what I do because of the evil of others.’  
But verses 36-37 highlight how we need to think and speak:

<sup>36</sup>Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” <sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” – Acts 2:36-37

Conviction of sin is simply feeling guilty. (Proverbs 30:20) Again, guilt is not the same as a saving conviction of sin and the repentance it brings. (2 Corinthians 7:9-11)

## **2. The conviction of sin takes place in the light of the truth.**

- What did they hear? (v. 36) That they crucified the Lord and Christ, Jesus. They heard of their sin.
- Jesus is both ‘Lord’ (God/ruler over all) and ‘Christ’ (only Savior for Sinners) – to receive Him is to receive Him as Lord and Savior. (36-37)
- God has given us sufficient evidence that Jesus is the One to trust and obey – the empty tomb, reliable witnesses, attesting miracles, fulfilled prophecy, and the testimony of the Spirit. (36-37) - Romans 1:4
- The Jesus we worship was Someone who was executed as a criminal – we should not be surprised if thinking people question such allegiance before they see the evidence and are convicted by the Spirit. (36-37) - John 16:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; James 2:9

## **3. The conviction of sin exposes our rejection of God.**

- How were they pierced to the heart? They were convicted of their sin.
- ‘pierced’ = to be pierced, stabbed
- The conviction of sin includes the conviction of the rejection of the God who made us and the Savior who saves us – even though the Jews and the Romans were the human instruments that crucified Jesus, every sinner ratifies that decision every time we heartily sin and reject Christ. (36-37) – Psalm 14:1-3; 10:4, 11, 13; Hebrews 6:6; Hebrews 10:29; Galatians 6:7; Luke 23:35
- It takes the light of the truth of the gospel and God’s Word to expose the darkness of our hearts – we look pretty good when we can find someone worse than we are to compare ourselves to. (37)
- Nathan to David: ‘You are the man!’ (2 Samuel 12:7)
- David to God: ‘Against You, You only, I have sinned’ (Psalm 51:1-4)

### *What is sin?*

Sin is a failure to love God and man as God does (= hatred of God and man) by doing the wrong thing (lawlessness/unrighteousness), acting for the wrong reason (unbelief/heart desires), and worshiping the wrong ‘God’ (idolatry), resulting in the dishonor of God and the destruction of man. – Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13; Romans 3:23; 1 John 3:4; Hebrews 3:12; Romans 1:25; Jeremiah 2:13; Jude 1:14-15