

The Name of Jesus Christ is Glorified!- Part II

Text: Acts 3

Continuing from Last Week...[Review]

8) Read verse 17. And so, Peter begins to rebuild, by offering a sense of hope. "Friends, make no mistake about it, what you have done is evil, and worthy of God's everlasting judgment. But, I also know that you did it in ignorance, not understanding the things that you see very clearly here today. Even the rulers of our people did what they did, with a degree of ignorance, for, had they grasped the truth, they would not have crucified The Lord of glory!"

9) Read verse 18. "And even what you did in ignorance, was not without God's sovereign design. For, in the *unjust* crucifying of the Christ, God has fulfilled those things, which the prophets spoke beforehand about the necessary sufferings of His Messiah, which was unto the salvation of His people. God has ordained, in and by your wicked intentions, to grant salvation to all who embrace His Christ by faith, who died as an atonement for lost sinners."

10) Read verse 19. Having brought the truth to their hearts, under the authenticating, revelatory sign of the lame man's healing, Peter, as he had done at Pentecost, here calls these people to the same response. "Repent of your wicked actions. Embrace, by faith, the Christ whom you have rejected and delivered over to death, and be converted...walk in a new way of obedience to God in Christ! So that your sins may be blotted out; so that all of your sins, culminating in, but not limited to, your rejection of the Christ, may be cleansed, forgiven and forever washed away!" Indeed, the ultimate paradox, brethren: The very Christ, whom they have unjustly crucified, by means of that crucifixion, has accomplished salvation for those who here would repent and believe in Him! [Brethren, note the significance in "calling for action," when evangelizing. The importance of repentance and conversion...etc]

"...So that times of refreshing may come from the presence of The Lord." "So that you, upon having your guilt removed, will obtain reconciliation and true peace with God. So that your conscience may be pure before God, and His smile of peace and grace may rest upon you, forever. So that, God, by His Spirit, might indwell you, and enjoy regular, ongoing fellowship with you!"

11) Read verses 20-21. "So that Christ might come to you now, by His Spirit, and in the body, when He returns unto the restoration of all things. The curse will then be lifted, all that has corrupted and defiled this world will be removed, all things will be made new in accordance with their original design, and you, being wholly restored as well, will be welcomed into that reality! Since the world began, God has promised to bring about this complete restoration in His Christ; He has laid this truth on the backs of his prophets, who have declared it throughout all history, and it will come to pass in due time. Be joined to the Christ by faith; be reconciled to God, and find an eternal entrance into this coming reality.

12) Read verses 22-23. Here, Peter, once again, as he had done at Pentecost, ties Christ to Old Testament prophecy. Here, he proclaims Him as that "Prophet like Moses," who Moses spoke about in Deuteronomy 18:15ff. No, much to the chagrin of the Muslims, Muhammad was not that prophet. Rather, he was a blasphemous imposter! Jesus is that Prophet! And as such, all must "hear Him!" Again, we see the warning and the encouragement here, as if Peter were saying, "Friends, there is hope, if you repent, believe in, and subject yourself to His Lordship now. But know that there is no neutral ground. For, those who refuse to listen to God's Prophet, will be "utterly destroyed!"

13) Read verse 24. "What is happening here in your presence is nothing obscure or totally hidden. For, all of the prophets spoke of these things, leaving us without excuse, if we neglect so great a salvation!"

14) Read verses 25-26. "You being of the physical seed of Abraham, descending physically from the very prophets, who have spoken these things, are blessed to receive this Gospel offer first. For, it is to the Jew first, but then to the Gentile. The Gospel will make its way out from here, to the whole world. Don't miss it! Jesus, who has performed what you have witnessed here this day, has been first sent to turn every one of you away from your iniquities! What a privilege you have been given this day! The risen Christ has made His Name known to you, in the healing of this lame man. It is a sign for you, calling you to repent, that you might receive forgiveness of your sins, and eternal life!"

II. The Name of Jesus Christ is Glorified!

Next time, Lord willing, we will see how opposition begins to arise, contending with Peter's Gospel proclamation. Wherever the Gospel is faithfully

preached, there will always be some level of opposition. But praise be unto God, "Christ's sheep always hear His voice," which we will see next time as well.

For now, brethren, let us note that, in the sign which was performed, in the humble attitude of the Apostles who refused to receive credit for the sign, and in Peter's accompanying sermon, the Name of Christ was here glorified in a most profound and wondrous way! It has always been, and always will be, all about Christ! May God give us the grace to be jealous unto that end, here in our church, ensuring that we ourselves are useful vessels, always quick to serve, while stealing no glory in that service!

AMEN!!!