

July 3rd, 2016
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Acts Men
Sermon #6 Title: The Christian Plea
Sermon #6 Text: (Acts 2:40-47)

I. The Plea of the Christian Message – “Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”

*Note – If there is any verse of scripture in the Bible that pictures the heart of the Lord in the heart of a man this is certainly it. It is the purpose and pleading of the Lord Jesus Christ for men and women to be saved from the nature of this life, this is it.

- Luke 19:10 – Jesus said, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- Whatever else comes with Christianity, whatever joys, whatever aids, whatever benefits, whatever graces, and whatever wisdom, the first and foremost primary message is for men to be saved, as we are going to see, “from this life.”

- Notice what we hear in the Preacher’s Final Plea:

A. This is a Lost Life

1.) “save yourselves from this untoward generation.”

a.) the word here for “generation” is the word “ghen-eh-ah” – which carries as its primary meaning “age” or “period of time.”

- He speaks to them of “this span of time, or this period of time.”

b.) It is an “untoward” period of time – or a “crooked, warping, or winding – in the dishonest sense, - perverse, deceitful.”

- In short, Peter proclaimed to them that this “generation, this period of time, is fundamentally, and naturally corrupted.

– But friend it isn’t just dirty, it’s doomed!

- Corruption means destruction!

What was Peter speaking of?

(1.) Their immediate influences

- their religious influences
- their cultural influences
- their social influences
- their political influences

- They are all doomed, and will ultimately destroy all who go with them!

(2.) In the broadest sense – all of time, “the generation” or “period of time” from Adam’s fall, until the Lord’s judgment!

In the Broadest Sense - The entire period of time that earth has under the sun is a corrupted time – this is a lost life!

(The fact is that when someone passes away, they do not lose their life – they lose their time.) – It is this Time, and Time Period that men must be saved from!

Philippians 2:15 Paul explained that the Christian life is to be separated FROM the this Time Period, also for the SAKE of this Time Period – “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the

sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

This is also why Jesus said, "He that will save his life shall lose it, but he that shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall find it."

Too many people somehow have this erroneous idea that at issue is nothing more than the behavior of men. – If men do good, (by human understanding) then all is well. If men do bad, (by human understanding) then nothing is well.

- The fact is that the Bible teaches us, as Peter preached here it is not what this generation DOES, it is what this generation IS.

- It is not What Happens during this age, it is what is going to happen TO This age, and all that is in it!

- Listen to what Paul said to the Ephesians – Ephesians 2:2-3 – "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

- spirit of disobedience
- desires of the flesh and of the mind
- by nature children of wrath

- Men and women are BORN BENT WRONG – Man is not born with the likeness of God, he is born in the likeness of Adam.

~All the idolatries of man, - When everything else in life is first, and takes precedent over the Lord – that's normal and that's natural, and that is categorically - DOOMED – Rule #1 – Nothing before the LORD, Normal Accepted human behavior – Nearly anything comes before the Lord.

~All the adulteries of man – it is in his nature, and in his heart.

~All the iniquities of man – it is in his nature and in his heart – it is normal and it is natural.

All of that Being said, - This is a Lost Life and Peter declared to those people that this is a Sinking Ship, it has a Doomed Destiny, with a Deadly End.

(All Time, and All Course of Life under the Sun in natural affairs is merely waiting for destruction.)

B. Jesus is the Saving Lord

1.) "Save yourselves from this . . ."

(a.) How? – I thought Jesus does the saving! That's Right!

(b.) Jesus came to you, now you come to Him!

- The Lord will never save a man against his will! Jesus came to Save You, and so you must Come to Him to get it!

- vs 36 – "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made this same Jesus whom ye have crucified both Lord and Christ. – "Christos" – the anointed one.

- God gave Him to You, now you give yourself to Him!

(Now if there is nothing else about the Christian message that you understand, and you understand that, then you've understood the first thing that needs to be understood.)

- He did not come to make life under the sun better, he came to save us from the sin of this life under the sun.

II. The Possession of a Converted People – “Then they that gladly received his word . . .”

Where the Lord converts, the Lord captures, and we note what he takes possession of when He is on the throne of a heart.

- Now He doesn't just save us “out” of a doomed Life, and He saves us TO a new Life – complete with a new nature, new lifestyle, new future. –

- When we read what happened in these next few verses, we see what He changed, when he captured their heart!

Note what he captured, when he captured these converts:

Once this word was “received.” – not merely heard, not merely agreed with, not merely acknowledged as being true, but once this message was “received” the Lord changed these things upon their obedience!

- How do we know it is “received” – It is “responded to”

A. Their Title – “they were baptized” (cf 2:38 – in the name of Jesus Christ.”

1.) They were not called Christians until the church at Antioch, but nonetheless, they were totally identified with Christ!

*Note – To the Jews, they were no longer Jewish! – The Baptism of the converts effectively did at least two things in their culture:

- It cut them off from those who rejected Christianity
 - in family
 - in finances

- in fellowship

While many people here do not understand this, but outside the four walls of the Bible belt culture, even today – “Baptism” is a line you do not cross in certain parts of the world, without consequence.

(There was great consequence to these people who were willing to “no longer have the title Jew” – but now were called a person of “The Way!”

- 5 times in the book of Acts, the early Christians were called “The Way”, we might refer to them as “People of the Way”

- There was a New Title in Town – and the Jews Despised It, the Gentiles Disregarded It, the Pagans Denied it.

(to be baptized meant that you would be despised, denied, and disregarded.)

“Then why do it? – If you don't have to be baptized to be saved, then why do it? –

It is the fruit of obedient faith. To Show that you are Willing to be Derided with Jesus!

- Jesus did not just let them “say” they were saved – they had to cross the line the world had drawn, and admit openly and fully that they were with Jesus.

- Now those who were saved – WANTED To.

B. Their Time – there was a sacred schedule that replaced all of the other passions of their lives.

- they had a new drum beat in their heart!

1.) “they continued steadfastly” – vs 42

2.) “they continuing daily” – vs 46

3.) “the Lord added to the church daily” – vs 47

There is no such thing as surrendering your heart, but not your life to the Lord. – These saints became slaves to the things of the Lord. –

(The church was not expendable – when time is crunched – it was the “other things” they said no to.)
Life “under the Lord” was not added to the life that they were living – it replaced it!

a.) they had a daily meeting at the temple

(Don’t get the idea that they all just quit their jobs, gathered on the steps, sat around and sang Cum Bay Yah all day, just waiting for the next day to start!) –

- They still got up every morning and went to work, did their chores, paid their bills, and made their livings – and still had a daily meeting in the temple.

b.) their circle of friendship and fellowship became more focused.

- “breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with singleness and gladness.” – now that’s not speaking of the Lord’s supper, that’s speaking of regular interfamily fellowships.

Remember that their baptisms, and their identifying with Jesus cut them off from much of their social worlds. – they gave their Time to the Lord and to Each Other!

C. Their Treasures

1.) – vs 44-45 – “they had all things common, and sold their possessions and goods and part them to all men, as every man had need.”

*Note – Again – Don’t get the idea that this is “Communal Living” or “Socialistic, Communistic” doctrine that we should teach and repeat.

- Why? – Because that’s not the picture. The picture is that their obedience cost many different people in many different ways.

a.) People lost their jobs – to be Christian

b.) People lost their families and businesses.

c.) Some did not! – It was put into the hearts of everyone who was in the church, to do everything they could for everyone in the church to make it through these times.

- This was the right response to the immediate needs in the lives of the people in the church.

(At the end of the book of Acts – there is no “communal living” – throughout the rest of the New Testament there is no “communal living.” – There is always, to be “Stewardship living” – The Needs of the People in the Church became the Financial priorities of the other people in the church. – You will find that throughout the rest of the New Testament.

D. Their Temperament

1.) “Fear” – verse 43 – “Fear came upon every soul.”

a.) Rejection had turned to Reverence

b.) Hostility turned to Humility

- As they began to learn of the Lord, and the things of the Lord, and the Word of the Lord – as the Light came on – their Fight simmered down.

- The More a man learns of the Lord, the less and less he wants to live for himself.

2.) “gladness” – vs 46

3.) “singleness of heart”

4.) “joy” – Praising God

*Note – They loved this newfound life and lifestyle - There is a Relief to the Heart when there is a Release from this World and a Reverence for the Lord!
Isaiah 32:17 – “And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.”

When these people were converted, they were captured, and when they were captured, the Lord began to sculpt them into the “peculiar people” that are “not of this world.”

III. The Practice of the Captured Believers

Now here is the progression that takes place throughout the scripture of someone who comes to Jesus for salvation, and crosses the line of baptism.

A. Membership – “they were added unto them.”

1.) There were about 120 names before this started – there were about 3,120 names at the end of this event.”

a.) to be “added to them” – they were added to the “one accord” or the “singleness of heart.”

All throughout the New Testament, there is a line between those “within” and those “without” the membership of the local church.

- Now don’t get the idea that membership is like a club you come to at your leisure, it is more like building you are a Wall in!

- they were added to them – differentiating them from the ones who were “not” added to them.

B. Discipleship

1.) they continued in the Apostles Doctrine

a.) Biblical Education! – To learn the truths of life as God intended for them to be learned!

(With all I can muster, I say to you, that this is the MISSING piece of the people who name Jesus)

- Discipleship – Continuing in the Apostles Doctrine – IS NOT during the Morning Sermon! – That’s not THIS!

- Continuing in the Apostles Doctrine – Is Sunday School, it is Wednesday Night.

Discipleship and learning comes from PREACHING AND TEACHING.

(Many people will not to one or the other, but don’t give time to BOTH)

- Preaching is Proclamation – Teaching is Explanation.

We are about to spend \$800,000 on a building for the purpose of “continuing in the Apostles Doctrine”

(And we are going to be preaching this again, and again – to make sure that everyone in this church hears this truth)

C. Fellowship

1.) This is when God’s people, become their people!

a.) The love, family, and fellowship is to be the culture within the body of the church.

D. Worship

1.) Breaking of Bread, Prayers –

a.) Breaking of Bread is what they
called the Lord's Supper – Prayers –
was a formal time of prayer.

Sometimes people wonder why you have to be a member of
Pinecrest before you can take the Lord's supper – Here is one
of those reasons!

- Salvation – Baptism – Membership – Discipleship all
come first.

- Preacher they don't to be saved, baptized, members
in order to pray? –

(When do you think the Apostles began letting
these brand new believers start taking the lead
in formal prayer services? – Not until they had
been trained.)

(Who has to be trained to pray – EVERYONE! –The Bible says
at our very best, we still don't know what to pray)

- Spiritual leadership is never to be handed over to untrained,
untaught, unwise people, until they have grown in the Lord.