

*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus



Chamberlain-Hitler
"Munich Agreement" September 29, 1938

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The Continuing Work of Jesus

*What Shall We Do?

Acts 2:37-47

³⁷ 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?" ³⁸ Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

(Acts 2:37-47)

What Shall We Do?

Two-Fold Command

1. Repent
 - a radical reorientation of life with respect to Jesus, expressing sorrow for having rejected the one that was vindicated by God as Lord
 - implies faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior

What Shall We Do?

Two-Fold Command

2. Be Baptized
 - the outward sign of repentance, cleansing of sin and identification with Jesus
 - water baptism is *always* part of the conversion-event; the outward form of calling on the Lord

What Shall We Do?

Two-Fold Promise

1. Forgiveness of sins
 - the rejection of Jesus is an immense offence against God that brings His judgment
 - the forgiveness of sins comes only through Jesus Christ (cf. Acts 4:12)

What Shall We Do?

Two-Fold Promise

2. Reception of the Holy Spirit
 - the same gift of the Spirit that was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost
 - the Holy Spirit enables the sort of transformed relationship with God promised in the New Covenant

What Shall We Do?

Two-Fold Outcome

1. Saved from a perverse generation
 - a believer in Jesus will have a markedly different relationship to the unbelieving culture

What Shall We Do?

Two-Fold Outcome

2. Incorporated into a new community
 - every believer was vitally connected to the community of believers (*the local church*)
 - every aspect of their new life was brought about by the Holy Spirit