

CHRIST'S ABRUPT FORK IN THE ROAD

Acts 2:14-41

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. The setting:
- B. The significance:
- C. The spokesman: v. 1

II. THE FIRST CHURCH MESSAGE PREACHED WITH AN ALTER CALL:

- A. The message: vv. 14-41
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- B. The invitation – “alter call”: vv. 36-41
 - 1. The conviction: v. 37
 - 2. The instruction: v. 38
 - a. “Repent” (See Lk. 13:3, 5)

The Bible tells us that without repentance, there can be no forgiveness of sin and therefore no salvation. Repentance means I must be willing to put a self-run life behind me and to turn around in order to live a surrendered life to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If I want to turn to the sunset in the western sky, that choice will automatically turn me from facing east. I can't face east and west at the same time. When I make the choice to change direction by repenting, there is a willingness now to follow Christ in total obedience. Jesus as God the Son, now runs my life at the expense of myself. The proof that I understood and have made the choice to surrender my life to Christ, will be evident by my willingness to listen to Him and follow Him through the guidance provided in the Bible. Jesus reminds us that one who is truly saved, “hears his voice, and follows Him” in John 10:27. My life is summarized like this: I believed in who Christ is and what Christ has done for me at the cross, I repented by changing direction in choosing to place Christ in charge at the expense of myself, and I am following Him which is the evidence that I am truly saved.

- b. “Be baptized” (See Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5a)
 - 3. The plea: v. 40
- C. The response: vv. 12-13, 41
 - 1. “Amazed” v. 12
 - 2. “Mocked” v. 13
 - 3. “Believed” and then “baptized” v. 41 (Jn. 10:10b; Acts 16:31-34; 18:8)
 - a. What it means to “believe” – eternal life (everything to do with salvation)
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - b. What it means to be “baptized” – abundant life (nothing to do with salvation)
 - (1)
 - (2)

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:
(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

A.

B.

“When you choose what it is you are going to believe, you are also choosing the consequences of embracing that belief system.”

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.