Sermon Highlights

The Birth of the Church: Peter's Pentecost Sermon and the Call to Salvation

Sermon Summary:

This sermon examines Peter's powerful message on the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2, where he boldly proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection to a Jewish audience. The message emphasizes that we have been living in the "last days" since Christ's ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter confronted his listeners with their responsibility in crucifying Christ while simultaneously offering them hope through repentance and faith. The sermon stresses that salvation comes through calling on the name of the Lord, not through human effort or religious heritage. Baptism is presented as a necessary act of obedience and public identification with Christ, though not essential for salvation itself. The message highlights the importance of preaching based on Scripture rather than human opinion, and demonstrates how genuine conviction comes from the Holy Spirit cutting hearts with truth rather than through emotional manipulation.

Key Points:

- We have been in the "last days" since Peter preached this sermon at Pentecost, spanning the entire church age

- The prophecy of Joel encompasses Christ's first coming, second coming, and the millennial kingdom

- All people—Jews, Romans, and Gentiles alike—share responsibility for Christ's crucifixion due to sin

- Christ's resurrection is the greatest miracle and essential proof of His deity and messianic identity

- Effective preaching centers on "thus saith the Word of God" rather than human opinion or emotional manipulation

- True conviction comes when the Holy Spirit "cuts to the heart" with the truth of God's Word

- Salvation requires repentance—a complete turning away from sin and agreement with God about our condition

- Baptism, while not essential for salvation, is a necessary act of obedience for believers to publicly identify with Christ

- The early church was predominantly Jewish but gradually became predominantly Gentile over time

- God is not partial—He poured out His Spirit equally on all believers, both men and women

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 2:14-39 (primary passage)

- Joel's prophecy (referenced in Acts 2:17-21)

- Psalm references by David concerning the Messiah

- 1 Corinthians 15 (regarding the necessity of Christ's resurrection)

- John 15 (Jesus's promise to send the Comforter)

Stories:

- The Day of Pentecost event with the sound of rushing wind and speaking in various languages

- Peter's confrontation of the Jewish crowd about their role in crucifying Christ

- The response of 3,000 people being cut to the heart and asking "What shall we do?"

- Reference to David's death and burial, contrasting with Christ's resurrection

- Brief mention of Isaac, Esau, Jacob, and Rebekah trying to help God's plan along (from morning service)

- Contemporary examples of Muslim converts being cut off from their families when accepting Christ

- The challenge of baptizing 3,000 people in Jerusalem with limited water supply