

Repentance and Restoration

Acts 3:1-26

“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’ (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” Martin Luther’s 1st Thesis

“Repentance is turning from as much as you know of your sin, to give as much as you know of yourself to as much as you know of God.” J.I. Packer, Keep in Step With the Spirit

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20

In order to share in the new creation, we have to become a new creation through the forgiving grace of Jesus Christ.

I. The Miracle: This is the Dawning of a New Day. Acts 3:1-10

“Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.” Acts 3:1-2

Jesus is the “Beautiful Gate” who opens up to us something far more glorious than our broken existence.

John 10:9 - “I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture”

- **God’s Plan: To Expand His Temple to the ends of the earth:**

Numbers 14:21 “But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord...”

Isaiah 54:2-3 “Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitation be stretched out; do not hold back. Lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities.”

Zephaniah 3:19 “Behold, at that time, I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.”

Micah 4:6-7 “In that day, declares the Lord, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted; and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off a strong nation; and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore.”

The Proof the Messianic Age Has Come:

Isaiah 35:5-6 “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.”

“The witnesses are empowered to spread rebirth as they heal the lame and preach new life. This is Aslan’s breath on people turned to stone. The apostle’s task was to reorder the earth by the power of the Spirit since the temple was a microcosm of the heavens and earth and to fill the whole earth. The boundaries of the Edenic temple were always meant to be extended, but this could only come about by the Father’s orchestration, under the name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit.” Patrick Schreiner

II. The Message: Restoration Begins with Repentance.

Acts 3:11-26

A. No other Name But Jesus. Acts 3:11-16

‘Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk.’ Acts 3:12

- **God glorified Jesus by raising Him from the dead.**

“The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers glorified his servant Jesus...and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.” (Acts 3:13-15)

- **God has glorified Jesus again by making this man well through faith in Jesus’ name.**

“And his name - by faith in his name – has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the

presence of you all.” (Acts 3:16).

Jesus is the Christ – God’s Servant

“... glorified his servant Jesus.”

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken and smitten by God, and afflicted.” **Isaiah 53:3-4**

Jesus is the Holy and Righteous One

“But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you.” (Acts 3:14)

Jesus is “the Author of Life”

“and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.” (Acts 3:15)

Sola Fide – Faith Alone

“And His name – by faith in His name – has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.” (Acts 3:16)

B. Repentance and Faith – The Doorway to A New Life.

Acts 3:17-26

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.” **Acts 3:19-21**

“Do not think that salvation comes to sinners because God has a cosmic purpose for the universe and individual sinners happen to be a part of that universe. The movement of salvation is not from everything to individuals, but from individuals to everything.” Kevin DeYoung

What is Repentance?

Repentance is turning back from the ignorant and willful behavior of actively denying Jesus' identity, His suffering for our sins, and his authority over our lives as revealed by the Holy Spirit.

Why Repentance is Crucial:

a. Forgiveness: "that your sins may be blotted out."

"Every bit of good news in the gospel flows from the work Jesus accomplished to save his people from their sins. No propitiation, no restoration. This gospel of atonement and forgiveness of sins must never be derided as a half gospel, an incomplete gospel, or a stepping-stone-to-bigger-and-better-things gospel. Everything about the "cosmic gospel" is made possible because of the "cross gospel." Kevin DeYoung

b. Refreshing: "that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

"God's answer to brokenness is this: repent and believe in Jesus. This gospel is how God puts broken people back together again. Once we repent and believe, God's Spirit helps us recover and pursue His design." Jimmy Scroggins

c. Restoration:

"and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all things about which God spoke about by the mouth of his prophets long ago." (Acts 3:20-21)

"A Christian is not a man who never goes wrong, but a man who is enabled to repent and pick himself up and begin over again after each stumble—because the Christ-life is inside him, repairing him all the time, enabling him to repeat (in some degree) the kind of voluntary death which Christ Himself carried out." CS Lewis