

“WHAT SHALL WE DO?”

By Keith Greer

We often study the text of Acts, chapter two, concerning the beginning of the church on the Day of Pentecost. Many good lessons have been preached and many fine articles written about those events. Let us look a little deeper at the text.

"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37) What prompted those on that day to ask this vital question?

Seventeen nations of the Jewish faith had gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost. About fifty days prior to this, Christ had been put to death. So the stage was set for the greatest invitation ever offered to men.

"And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?" (Acts 2:8) All these nations of people could understand the preaching of Peter and the apostles in their own native tongue! How could this be true of Galileans?

"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel. " (Acts 2: 16) Peter goes on to explain that this was God's Spirit being poured out on "all flesh", according to the words of the prophet Joel. Please read Joel 2:28-32. This was also a fulfillment of a promise made to the apostles by Christ before his death. Please read John 15:26; 16:7-13;

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know; Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; "(Acts 2:22,23) Peter explained the purpose of Christ to his audience. He told them of God's "**eternal purpose**" fulfilled in His Son. (Ephesians 3:11)

"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear." (Acts 2:32,33) The truth that this was truly the Son of God, was what they were hearing and witnessing today!

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36) The Messiah, of whom the prophets had spoken, and for whom they had so long waited, was murdered by them! The realization of that fact provoked the question, "What shall we do?" The results were 3,000 souls obeyed the gospel that day and were added to the church!

Does the word of God still contain that type of power today? "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first

and also for the Greek." (Romans 1: 16) Paul said it does.

"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." (James 1:21) James said it does.

Whenever the word of God is preached, in all of its truth and simplicity, to the honest heart who is seeking truth, the results will always be the same! Why? God made it to be so! Truth is attractive and believable to those who desire to know the mind of God.

How can we reach the hearts of men today? Sadly, many think that we need gimmicks, recreation, social gospel, and meeting the social needs of the day to reach men. Preach the word! ***