

Title: Is It Too Late To Repent?

Text: Acts 3:19-26

As we come to the Word of God, I want to say to every person including every child, young person, and adult, it is very important that you give careful attention to the Word of God. I want every young person to know that we are speaking to you as well as to mom and Dad. Every child..the Word of God is for you. Jesus said, "Except you come as a little child you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."

When God's Word speaks. It is speaking to everyone. And may God help us to give careful attention to his wonderful Word. That we ourselves might know clearly what his Word says. And that everyone around us might have the opportunity to hear undistracted.

LET'S US LOOK TO THE LORD IN A WORD OF PRAYER

I am beginning my reading at Acts chapter 3 verse 19..Acts 3 verse 19...

(READ ACTS 3:19-26)

I remind you, again, that these are the Acts of the Apostles. This is the age of the apostles. Men who were supernaturally gifted by God. Who were given the same ability to work miracles and signs and wonders that Jesus Christ had. For example they could lay hands upon people and heal them directly. According to the Bible these miracleous powers that these apostles had was for the purpose of confirming the spoken word. They did not have the written word as we have it now. It confirmed that which they were speaking, to prove that this new message of salvation was truly from God. These miracles were performed.

And the context of what we have just read is a miracle. It was the healing of a lame man. Which we looked at last week. And in the context of Acts, you will remember that the greatest thing that happened to this point is that God has sent His Holy Spirit. And these men including, not only themselves, but 120 more believers...These 120 people experienced something that has rarely been experienced throughout all history. And that is..3 thousand people believe that very day..they were baptized and they were added that day to this little group of people.

So, now there are 3 thousand 1 hundred and 20 people in this new church. The Word of God is still going forth. And Peter brings his second sermon. His second sermon is most fascinating from many standpoints. He is still speaking to Jews. There is no evidence in these early chapters of Acts that the Gentiles are under consideration. It is speaking to Jews. The early church was a Jewish church. And when Peter is speaking he is addressing the nation. And telling them things that their hope was in. And yet he says that there is a necessary element that needs to take place before their hope is accomplished. WHAT IS IT?

Vs 19..REPENT AND BE CONVERTED.

This message was not new. John the Baptist came on the scene as a voice crying in the wilderness. A strange sort of fellow. He wore camels hair and a leather girdle. He ate locust and wild honey. And he lived in the wilderness. And apparently he had a very loud voice. Because he was heard all over. And the Bible says that all Jerusalem came out to hear him.

John baptized people in the Jordan river. AND WHAT WAS HIS MESSAGE? His message was repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

When John was finally put into prison, the Bible says that Jesus when He heard that John was in prison, Jesus began to preach: REPENT FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WAS AT HAND

This message was not new. And on the day of Pentecost, Peter's first sermon, he said; REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU UNTO THE REMISSION OF SINS. And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you Jews and for all those who are afar off. And as many as the Lord our God shall call.

And so here we are. Still in the midst of those exciting days. And this is Peter's second sermon. Only in this sermon he adds some tremendous statements about Messianic promises in the O.T. which surely must have confused his hearers.

Now, you will notice in Vs 19 it says, "Repent therefore." And as I have often said, when you see the word "therefore" find out what it is therefore.