

## Guard the Good News Acts 2:38-40

We want to proclaim and guard the gospel of grace. Faith in Jesus is the only requirement for a person to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

- What is repentance?
- Is repentance required for eternal life?
- Is baptism required for eternal life?
- How should we explain the gospel?
- How should we apply Acts 2:38 today?

Faith in Jesus is the only requirement for us to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

### Historical Context

- Jewish audience subject to Old Testament Law (Dt 28-30)
- Rejection of the Messiah (2:36-37)
- Impending judgment on Israel
- “What shall we do?”

### What is Repentance?

- Greek = *metanoia*, “change of mind”
- Luke 11:32; 2 Tim 2:24-26; Heb 12:15-17

Luke 11:32

*The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.*

2 Timothy 2:24-26

*And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.*

Hebrews 12:15-17

*See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.*

- Repentance is a change of mind or attitude, a turning from one idea or person toward another.
- Repentance often *results* in a change of behavior (Luke 3:8).

### What is Repentance in Acts 2:38?

Turn *from* your rejection of Jesus as the Messiah, and turn *toward* Jesus to save you from God’s wrath.

### **Is Repentance Necessary for Eternal Life?**

- Trusting in Jesus saves us from God's judgment.
- The biblical requirement for salvation is faith/belief/trust in Jesus (Acts 16:31; John 1:12; 1 John 5:13; Romans 4:5).
- Repentance is often a prerequisite to faith (Acts 17).

*"Repentance (that is, to change one's mind about the person and finished work of Christ) is a vital part of believing, and is no way, in itself, a separate and independent condition of salvation."*

Faith in Jesus is the only requirement for us to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

### **Is Baptism Required for Eternal Life?**

- Jesus commanded baptism (Mt 28:18-20).
- It is a *response* to salvation rather than a *means* of salvation.
- The early church closely linked the sign with the reality.

1 Peter 3:21

*Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

### **How should we explain the gospel?**

- We are sinners facing God's judgment.
- Jesus died for our sins and rose again.
- When we trust in Jesus alone for forgiveness and eternal life, God gives it freely.

Faith in Jesus is the only requirement for us to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

### **How should we apply Acts 2:38?**

- Trust in Jesus.
- Guard the good news.
- Allow the Spirit to produce His fruit in your life (Acts 2:42-47; Galatians 5:22-23).