GREAT LESSONS FROM ACTS TWO

INTRODUCTION:
B. Regarding the text:
   1. Jesus instructs His disciples to stay in Jerusalem, waiting for a great event.
   2. Acts 2 has been called the hub of the Bible.
      1) From Genesis onward we see the promise of this great event.
      2) When sin came into this world God set in motion His plan for salvation.
   3. Acts 2 sets in motion the unveiling of the plan.
      1) In this chapter the promise given by Jesus is clearly seen.
   4. Of course the coming of Christ, His death, His burial and His resurrection made this possible.
   5. Acts 2 records the ultimate purpose of Christ’s sacrifice.
      1) In Acts 2 we find the first time the gospel is given. (Acts 2:14-40)
         a. Hearts were changed by the message. (Acts 2:37)
         b. The terms of pardon are given.
         c. The obedient responded. (2:41; Hebrews 5:9)
      2) The church of Christ is established. (Acts 2:47; Matthew 16:18-19)
C. Acts 2 is not JUST a record of the event.
   1. It also contains great lessons for us today.

DISCUSSION: FROM ACTS 2 WE LEARN…

I. THE POWER OF GOD’S WORD. (37-41)
   A. How were 3000 saved?
      1. By obeying the message that was preached. (Acts 2:41, 47)
      2. Also read Romans 1:16-17.
   B. This lesson is a sharp contrast to the false notions of today.
      1. Some believe in a “direct operation” of the Holy Spirit.
         1) This doctrine appeared almost 400 years after Acts 2.
         a. So it could not have been a Biblical doctrine.
      2) It cannot be found in first century.
   2. NOTE: The Holy Spirit did give revelation to inspired men.
      2) Jesus had made that promise to them. (Luke 24:49; John 14:26; Matthew 10:19)
   3. Notice Acts 2:37 “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
      1) What did they hear? The WORD proclaimed!
      2) “Heard” means to perceive by ear that is announced in one’s presence.
C. Today, the Gospel is still God’s power to salvation.
   1. 1 Peter 1:23 “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”
   2. See also 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 1:16-17.
   3. This does not discount the sacrifice of Christ. (John 3:16)
      1) The word gives information concerning what God has done and what we must know and obey. (Hebrews 5:9)
D. The GOSPEL is the only thing that gives mankind truth concerning salvation.
   1. John 8:32; John 17:17; Psalm 119:11.

II. ACTS 2 REVEALS THE CONDITIONS OF SALVATION. (2:38)
   A. God’s grace is seen.
      1. In Acts 2 we see the work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (All 3.)
         1) The Holy Spirit gave the message. (Acts 2:1-21; 2 Peter 1:21)
         2) Peter spoke of the cross of Christ. (Acts 2:23)
         3) The Jews killed Him but the Father raised Him up. (Acts 2:36)
   B. God’s grace will not do for us what He requires and or has commanded of us.
      1. Thus the plan for our obedience unto salvation is revealed.
         2. Acts 2 reveals the conditions.
1. Must have faith. (Hebrews 11:6)
2. Faith is produced by the word. (Romans 10:17)

C. Meeting these conditions DEMONSTRATES our obedience. (Hebrews 5:9)
   1. The opposite of obedience brings damnation. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

III. ACTS 2 REVEALS THAT MEN MUST DO SOMETHING. (ACTS 2:40)

A. Just to reinforce what we have already learned we see the we must “save ourselves.”
   1. Now…how is that possible?
   2. All men must do what God requires of him. (Always has!)
      1) Faith is a work.
         a. Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
         b. Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”
            (a) Noah “found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” (Genesis 6:8)
            (b) YET, he **prepared an ark**! (This was Noah’s work. He obeyed God’s instructions!)
      2) Faith without works is dead. (James 2:24-26)

B. In Acts 2:41 we observe “Then they that gladly received the word were baptized.”

IV. CONCLUSION.

B. The preaching of the gospel of Christ opened the doors.
   1. Mark 16:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Peter 1:22-23.
C. The obedient were added to her.