

## False Doctrines Refuted By Acts 2

### Part 1

#### Introduction.

1. One of the most amazing passages of the Bible is Acts 2:22-42.

Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

Acts 2:23 this {Man,} delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put {Him} to death.

Acts 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Acts 2:25 "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.

Acts 2:26 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;

Acts 2:27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

Acts 2:28 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'

Acts 2:29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

Acts 2:30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT {one} OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,

Acts 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

Acts 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

Acts 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Acts 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

Acts 2:35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard {this,} they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Acts 2:38 Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

Acts 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

2. There are many lessons that can and should be learned from this marvelous chapter which records the beginning of the church on the day of Pentecost; this Pentecost was the first Pentecost following the resurrection and ascension of Christ
3. In this chapter the Bible gives the facts concerning the beginning of the church, but it also foresees many religious errors of our day and clearly repudiates them.

### **Predestination Of The Individual**

1. Many today teach the doctrine of predestination of the individual.
  - a. This doctrine contends God has predestined the individuals who will be saved or lost.
    - 1) This doctrine teaches you are either saved or lost and there is nothing you can do about it you are not one of God's chosen.
    - 2) Many hold only those predestined to be saved will be drawn to God.
  - b. Here are some proof texts used to teach this erroneous doctrine. (Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1:4-5; 1 Pet. 1:2).

Rom 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined {to become} conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

Rom 8:30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Eph 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

1 Pet 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

- c. These passages are used to teach one is predestined either to be saved or lost..
  - 1) If one is predestined to be lost, he can believe in God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, live good morally, be honest, etc., yet he cannot change his situation. He is destined to hell.
  - 2) If one is born to be saved, he cannot be lost because God will make sure he is saved.
  - 3) Even if one stops serving God, he is still saved since God chose him to be saved.
  - 4) This doctrine is very similar to the doctrine "once saved always saved."
  - 5) In this doctrine God chooses those who will be saved, but those who hold to "once saved always saved" do not teach predestination.
- d. Later in this lesson each of these proof texts will be examined for what they really teach.

2. This false doctrine of predestination of the individual is refuted by Peter's sermon. (Acts 2:40).

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "**Be saved** from this perverse generation!" KJV, ASV NIV have "save yourselves."

- a. This does not sound like predestination.
- b. The words "Be saved" or "Save yourselves" show men have a choice in regard to their salvation.
  - 1) "Save yourselves" does not mean they could earn their salvation. (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9).
  - 2) The words "be saved" reveal that salvation was offered to all those present on Pentecost. See Acts 2:5-11 where it is revealed who was present on Pentecost.
  - 3) The very next verse clearly sets forth those on Pentecost rightly recognized they had a choice.
  - 4) The Bible records they had this response to Peter's stirring messages. (Acts 2:37-41).

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard {this,} they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Acts 2:38 Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

Acts 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

- c. Each person, then and now, has the opportunity to become obedient to Christ and be saved eternally.
- d. The gospel is to be preached to all. (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19; Lk. 24:47)
- e. That people have a choice in regard to their salvation is shown by the Old Testament Scriptures. (Deut. 30:19-20; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kgs. 18:21).

Deut 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. **So choose life in order that you may live**, you and your descendants,

Deut 30:20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Josh 24:15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, **choose for yourselves today whom you will serve**: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

1 Kin 18:21 Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long {will} you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word.

- f. That salvation is offered to all is also shown by New Testament Scriptures. (Jn. 3:16; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 1:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; Heb.2:9; 2 Pet. 3:9).

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall

not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 10:34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand {now} that God is not one to show partiality,

Acts 10:35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

1 Tim 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Heb 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, {namely,} Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

3. Before leaving the discussion of predestination of the individual, it is important that we discuss the meaning of the Scriptures used to advocate predestination.

a. Romans 8:29-30

1) This passage is not teaching an arbitrary predestination of a person's salvation.

2) It is teaching that God foreknew He would save man through Christ and through Christ alone.

3) It is teaching that God predestined that those saved would be saved by Christ and His atoning blood.

4) God did not decide in advance which individuals would be saved or lost based on His arbitrary choice.

b. Ephesians 1:4-5

1) God foreknew men would sin and could not save themselves.

2) The saved would need a Savior.

3) In love He predestined that men would be saved and would be adopted into His spiritual family by becoming obedient to His Son who would die for their sins.

c. 1 Peter 1:2

1) God foreknew exactly how men would be saved.

2) This would be accomplished by the sanctification [the setting apart] of the Holy Spirit through the gospel.

3) Those who would obey the gospel and be spiritually sprinkled by the blood of Jesus would be saved.

4) Those who turn from sin and are baptized "for remission of sins" are sprinkled by the precious blood of Jesus.

4. God has predestined all who are saved will be saved through Jesus Christ, but He has not predestined the individual who will be saved or lost.

### **Sinner Saved When He Prays For Pardon**

1. Many today contend that the one who is lost, alienated from God, is to pray for salvation.
  - a. It is argued that God, on the basis of the prayer for pardon, will forgive a person of his/her sins.
  - b. This is a very comforting doctrine, but it does not agree with the text we are studying.
2. Peter did not tell those on Pentecost to pray for their forgiveness.
  - a. Certainly one can and should pray for forgiveness.
  - b. But prayer alone will not bring forgiveness to the alien sinner seeking salvation.
3. Peter instructed the sorrowful Jews to repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:37,38).

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard {this,} they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Acts 2:38 Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- a. Those pricked or grieved at heart in verse 37 had come to believe they had crucified the Savior, the Messiah, the Son of God.
  - b. They wanted to know what they must do to be saved.
  - c. Peter told them exactly what they had to do to be saved.
  - d. The Bible reveals that they did as Peter commanded. (Acts 2:41).
4. Acts 2:38 agrees with the words of Jesus. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Jn. 3:5).

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Matt 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Matt 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mark 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

5. Ananias did not instruct Paul to pray to have his sins forgiven. (Acts 22:16).
6. There is no instance in the Holy Scriptures where **the alien sinner** is asked to pray for pardon.

7. Cornelius was a praying man (Acts 10:2-4), but he still had to hear words [the gospel] by which he could be saved. (Acts 11:13-14).
  - a. He was not saved until he believed in Christ. (Acts 10:43).
  - b. Once Cornelius and his family believed in Jesus as Savior they were commanded to be baptized to be saved - not pray their sins would be forgiven. (Acts 10:48).
  - c. It is important again to note the fact Peter had come to the understanding God is not a respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34-35).

**Conclusion.**

1. It is clear from Acts 2 that one is not predestined to be saved or lost and the alien sinner is not saved by prayer alone.
2. In the next lesson we will study Acts 2 to see what it says about the direct operation of the Holy Spirit on the heart for conviction and conversion to Christ.
3. We will also examine Acts 2 to see what it says about salvation by faith only and remission of sins apart from water baptism.
4. I believe we will be surprised how clearly this chapter refutes these false doctrines.

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