

False Doctrines Refuted By Acts 2

Part 2

Introduction.

1. In Part 1 we found Acts 2 refutes predestination of the individual and the doctrine that the alien sinner is saved by prayer only.
2. In this lesson some additional current false doctrines will be repudiated by Acts 2.
3. It is amazing how many current false doctrines are refuted by Acts 2.

The Direct Operation Of The Holy Spirit On The Heart For Conviction And Conversion To Christ

1. This doctrine states the Holy Spirit must come directly upon a person and He must move the person to accept the gospel.
 - a. It affirms a person cannot accept Christ without the aid of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The Holy Spirit must move a person to accept the gospel and without the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit on the heart one cannot accept Christ.
2. This doctrine is accepted by many people as truth, but Acts 2 does not substantiate this doctrine.
 - a. Peter emphasized in his sermon that Jesus showed Himself “a man approved of God”...” “by miracles and wonders and signs.” (Acts 2:22).
 - b. We learn that the apostles were baptized by the Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised. (Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:5-8, 26; 2:1-4).
 - c. Acts 2 reveals it was the apostles speaking in tongues-not the multitude. (Acts 2:6, 7; 1:11; 2:14).
 - d. Nothing is said about the multitude receiving or doing anything miraculous.
 - e. Later in the chapter, Luke reports that the apostles were doing miraculous things, but not those who had come to Christ. (Acts 2:43).

Acts 2:43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. See also Acts 5:12.

- f. The multitude was convicted of sin by the preaching of the gospel.
 - 1) Peter convicted them by showing Jesus had died and was buried and resurrected according to the Scriptures. (Acts 2:22-36).
 - 2) Peter completed his initial address to the people with these words. (Acts 2:36).

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."

- 3) Once convinced they had crucified the Messiah they were pricked at heart and asked what they needed to do to be saved. (Acts 2:37).

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?"

- 4) Observe it was God's word [the gospel message] that pierced their hearts.

- 5) This is also supported by Acts 2:40-41.

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.

3. It is clear from Acts 2 that their hearts were not pricked because:

- (1) The Holy Spirit made a direct miraculous impact on their hearts - not the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- (2) Of a vision or dream

- (3) Those hearing Peter's message were able to speak in tongues or do something else miraculous.

4. They were converted because they believed the gospel message Peter preached to them.

5. The Bible teaches one is saved by hearing and believing and obeying the gospel. (Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 4:15; Jas. 1:18, 21-22; 1 Pet. 1:23-25).

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.

Rom 1:17 For in it {the} righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS {man} SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

1 Cor 4:15 For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet {you would} not {have} many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

James 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

James 1:21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and {all} that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

James 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

1 Pet 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, {that is,} through the living and enduring word of God.

1 Pet 1:24 For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,

1 Pet 1:25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

Salvation By Faith Only

1. It is very commonly taught that salvation is by faith only.
 - a. It is argued that salvation comes at the point of faith without any further act of obedience.
 - b. This is a very widely accepted doctrine, but Acts 2 refutes it.
2. Many came to believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God and were pricked at heart. (Acts 2:37).
3. Peter responded to them with these words. (Acts 2:38).

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."

4. Peter did not teach they were saved on the basis of their faith only, but that they must be re-baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.
 - a. Many seek to argue that preposition "eis" [ace] translated "for" means "because of."
 - b. This makes Peter say they must repent and be baptized because their sins had already been forgiven.
 - c. **This makes remission of sins precede repentance rather than follow it.**
 - d. This contradicts all the Scriptures that teach one must repent to be forgiven, to be saved. (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Pet. 3:9).

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Luke 13:5 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Acts 17:30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all {people} everywhere should repent,

Acts 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

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.

- e. "Eis" [ace] never means "because of," but even if could have this meaning in a given context it would be foreign to Scripture that one should repent because they have already been forgiven [saved].
 - 1) "Eis" is used in Matthew 12:41 and is rendered "at."
 - 2) They repented "into" or "at" the preaching of Jonah.
 - 3) They did what his message required - a change of life and a turning to God.
5. This does not mean that baptism is an act meriting salvation.

- a. No one can merit salvation. (Eph. 2:8-10).

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

- b. Baptism is an act of faith like repentance and confession.
- c. **The whole Christian life is a demonstration of one's faith.**
- d. Without it one cannot please God. (Heb. 11:6).
- e. Faith, repentance, confession, baptism, works do not earn salvation.

Water Baptism Has Nothing To Do With Salvation

1. Countless people contend that water baptism has nothing to do with salvation.
 - a. It is argued that salvation occurs at the point of one accepting Christ as his/her Savior.
 - b. They maintain that baptism is only an outward sign of an inward grace.
2. Once again we look to Acts 2 to see if it teaches this doctrine.
 - a. Immediately we read what Luke records in this chapter.
 - b. Peter gave this commandment found in Acts 2:38.
 - 1) Peter commanded them to repent and to be baptized for the remission of sins.
 - 2) The conjunction "and" means both repentance and baptism are necessary for forgiveness.
 - 3) "For" does not mean "because of," but it means "in order to have."
 - 4) It is used in this verse just as it is in Matthew 26:28. See also Mk. 1:4; Lk. 3:3.

Matt 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for [ace] forgiveness of sins.

- 5) It is plain Jesus did not die "because" our sins were already forgiven.
 - 6) He died that we might have the forgiveness of sins. (Isa. 53:4-5).
 - c. The conversion of Paul shows water baptism is essential for the forgiveness of sins. (Acts 22:16).
- Acts 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'
- 1) A study of the conversion of Paul reveals the Lord had appeared to him producing faith in Paul.
 - 2) He spent some 3 days in Damascus likely in a state of remorse and repentance because he had persecuted Christians and had opposed the One he now accepted as Lord.
 - 3) Ananias was sent to Paul that Paul might be instructed about what he must do to be saved. (Acts 22:12-16).

3. Other Scriptures set forth that water baptism is essential for salvation.

a. Peter wrote. (1 Pet. 3:21).

1 Pet 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,

b. Jesus had earlier taught during His ministry. (Jn. 3:5).

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.

c. The essentiality of water baptism is taught by Acts 8:36-38.

Acts 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

Acts 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

Acts 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

d. The essentiality of water baptism is set forth in Titus 3:5.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

e. Water baptism is implied by these passages in Romans and Colossians. (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; 3:1).

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ** Jesus have been baptized into His death? See Gal. 3:26-27.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Col 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Conclusion

1. Next week we will examine some other false doctrines refuted by Peter's sermon in Acts 2 and by other words found in Acts 2.
2. We will compare Acts 2 with these popular doctrines.
 - a. Religious division is acceptable to God.
 - b. One should join the church of his choice.
 - c. Jesus was just a man.
 - d. Christ is not reigning now.

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