

008 - Acts 3:11-19 Repent and Turn  
GRBC 2012-01-22

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 36:1-3

Confession of Sin: from Lamentations 5

Our fathers sinned and are no more, but we bear their iniquities

You, O Lord, remain forever; Your throne from generation to generation

Turn us back to You, O Lord, and we will be restored

Sermon: "Repent and Turn" Acts 3:11-16

Benediction: 1 Peter 3:10-11

I. See how completely you have gone the wrong way:

A. When a miraculous sign from God is done here among you, right in God's temple, you marvel at it, and look at us (verse 12)

1. This is what the pagans do

a. Romans 1:21-23

b. Acts 14:8-12

2. Yet the Jews had gone to the same thing

a. John 6:26 You seek Me because you ate of the loaves and were filled

b. here in Acts 3

3. See how you have done the same in God's church

B. You who profess to revere the God of your fathers have condemned His servant, when even a corrupt gentile governor was willing to let Him go free (verse 13)

1. So you are worse than the pagans!

2. the Pharisees did something similar with their parents

3. Paul warned against it

1 Corinthians 5

1 Timothy 5:8

C. You have denied and rejected the only man ever to be entirely holy and righteous, and asked for a murderer be given to you in His place (verse 14)

D. You have taken the very author and Prince of life, and killed Him (verse 15a)

E. APPLICATION: Since God's law is the expression of His very character, when you do anything against God's law, you are in effect wishing God were dead, so His law would not obtain. And Jesus taught us that to hate someone is to murder him in your heart.

II. See how thoroughly, how completely God is turning things around, back to how they should be:

A. By your sin, Jesus died, but God has raised Him up (verse 15b)

B. By the sin of your race, this man was lame from birth, but the Name of Jesus has healed Him (verse 16)

1. the Name of Jesus has made the man strong
  2. the Name of Jesus has done this through faith in the Name
  3. it is faith that comes through Jesus Christ
  3. his healing is complete; he is perfectly sound
- C. By your ignorance, Jesus suffered, but God has fulfilled all His prophecy through it (verse 17-18)
1. In some sense, the people and their rulers did not know Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ (1 Corinthians 2:8; Acts 13:27; 1 Timothy 1:13)
    - a. As to their expectations before He came
      - i. their leaders interpreted the Old Testament scriptures according to their own desires, and so developed wrong beliefs about what to expect of the Messiah
      - ii. the people went along willingly
      - iii. both of these things are sinful, but not necessarily malicious (2 Peter 3:5)
    - b. As to their view of Jesus Christ when He came
      - i. generally their leaders did not know Jesus to be the Messiah when He came
        - although the Bible says that some of them did know, and became His disciples
        - it seems clear that some of them did know, and opposed Him anyway
      - ii. generally the people did not know Jesus to be the Messiah, especially once He was arrested by the Romans
        - they were asking, "Could this be the Son of David?"
        - but their leaders were insisting that He was not
        - when they saw He was arrested by the Romans, it seemed clear to them that He was not the Messiah
  2. And so their willful, sinful ignorance was the channel for bringing Jesus Christ to suffer
  3. But that is how God fulfilled all the prophecies about the suffering of the Christ

III. See how you may have a part in this great turning around, this great setting things right

A. Your sins have been recorded as a testimony against you,

B. But if you repent (verse 19a)

-What is it to repent?

-to see yourself and your conduct as sinful, evil, wicked, rebellious, unlawful

-to hate that sin, sorrow over it, grieve over it

-to love Jesus Christ, to desire forgiveness of sin in Him, to want to obey His commands instead of continuing to rebel against Him

-it is all inside, and is not an action or a work

-Let us not forget that repentance is something granted to the sinner  
see Acts 5:31

-But here we see that repentance is also something commanded of the sinner

C. and if you turn to God

-What is it to turn to God?

It is the acting out of repentance, or as John the Baptist  
said, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

-Let us not forget that turning to God is something God does to us

Lamentations 5:21 Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be  
restored; Renew our days as of old,

-But here we see that turning to God is also something commanded of the  
sinner

D. The record of your sins will be wiped away

1. Jesus had said that the church was to preach repentance and forgiveness  
of sins in His name, and this is what He meant

2. there is forgiveness of sins

3. but that forgiveness will not come to any who is not repentant

4. but it will come to all who are repentant

Question: In what way is the modern man a partaker in the sins of putting Jesus to death?

Spurgeon:

And this is spiritually true of you to whom I speak this morning. Every sin in the  
essence of it is a killing of God. Do you understand me? Every time you do what God  
would not have you do, you do in effect, so far as you can, put God out of His throne,  
and disown the authority which belongs to His Godhead! You do in intent, so far as  
you can, kill God! That is the drift of sin—sin is a God-killing thing. Every violation  
of law is treason in its essence—it is rebellion against the lawgiver. When our Lord  
Jesus Christ was nailed to the tree by sinners, sin only did, then, literally and openly,  
what all sin really does in a spiritual sense. Do you understand me? Those offenses  
of yours which you have thought so little of, have been really a stabbing at the Deity!

JRY:

Since God's law is the expression of His very character, when you do anything against God's law, you are in effect wishing God were dead, so His law would not obtain. And Jesus taught us that to hate someone is to murder him in your heart.

**Acts 3:11**

**Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John,**

**all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's,**

**greatly amazed.**

**Acts 3:12**

**So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this?"**

**Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?**

**Acts 3:13**

**The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers,**

**glorified His Servant Jesus,**

**whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go.**

Calvin:

it was impossible to bring them truly unto God, unless they were first brought to the knowledge of their sins;

JRY:

could we preachers put people's sins to them like this, showing them vividly how sinful their sins are?

**Acts 3:14**

**But you denied the Holy One and the Just (NIV, NASB: righteous),**

**and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,**

**Acts 3:15**

**and killed the Prince of life (NIV, ESV: author; NASB, KJV: Prince; Gen: Lorde),**

Greek: *archegon tes zoes*

RWP:

Peter pictures Jesus as the source of all life as is done in John 1:1-18; Colossians 1:14-20; Hebrews 1:2

*Archegos* is an adjective furnishing the first cause or occasion in Euripides, Plato. the leader, the pioneer as of Jesus both Beginner and Finisher (Hebrews 12:2)

**whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.**

**Acts 3:16**

**And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong,  
whom you see and know.**

**Yes, the faith which comes through Him  
has given him this perfect soundness (NASB: health)  
in the presence of you all (NIV: as you can all see).**

**Acts 3:17**  
**"Yet now, brethren,**

**I know that you did it in ignorance,  
as did also your rulers.**

**Acts 3:18**  
**But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets,  
that the Christ would suffer,  
He has thus fulfilled (NIV: this is how God fulfilled).**

**Acts 3:19**  
**Repent therefore**

Henry:

must bethink themselves of what they have done amiss, must return to their right mind, admit a second thought, and submit to the convictions of it; they must begin anew.

Clarke:

let your minds be changed, and your hearts become contrite for the sins you have committed.

Spurgeon:

Repentance is a discovery of the evil of sin, a mourning that we have committed it, a resolution to forsake it. It is, in fact, a change of mind of a very deep and practical character which makes the man love what once he hated, and hate what once he loved

**and be converted (NIV: turn to God; NASB: return; ESV: turn again; YLT: turn back),**  
VWS:

Not a good rendering, because the verb is in the active voice. Better as Rev. turn again

Henry:

must face about, and direct both their faces and steps the contrary way to what they had been; they must return to the Lord their God, from whom they had revolted. It is not enough to repent of sin, but we must be converted from it, and not return to it again. They must not only exchange the profession of Judaism for that of Christianity, but the power and dominion of a carnal, worldly, sensual mind, for that of holy, heavenly, and divine principles and affections.

Wesley:

Be turned from sin and Satan unto God

Gill:

turn unto him, and acknowledge him as the Messiah; receive his doctrines, and submit to his ordinances; externally reform in life and conversation, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance, such as will show it to be true and genuine:

Clarke:

Turn to God through this Christ, deeply deploring your transgressions, and believing on his name

Barnes:

the idea of being "passive" in this is not conveyed by the original word. The word means properly to "turn; to return to a path from which one has gone astray; and then to turn away from sins, or to forsake them." It is a word used in a general sense to denote "the whole turning to God."

Sin cannot be pardoned before man repents of it. In the order of the work of grace, repentance must always precede pardon. Of course, no man can have evidence that his sin is pardoned until he repents.

**that your sins may be blotted out (NIV, NASB: wiped away),**

VWS:

Forgiveness of sins under the figure of the erasure of hand-writing

Barnes:

The word used here properly refers to the practice of writing on tables covered with wax, and then by inverting the stylus, or instrument of writing, smoothing the wax again, and thus removing every trace of the record. This more entirely expresses the idea of pardoning than blotting does. It means wholly to remove the record, the charge, and every trace of the account against us. In this way God forgives sins.

**so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,**