

If This Sin Can Be Forgiven, Any Sin Can Be Forgiven

Acts 2:14-41

Today we begin a short three week series entitled *Salvation 101*. What is salvation, and why is it essential to understanding life? And why does this matter if you're already saved?

Salvation? From what? What's the problem exactly?

The Sin

- "God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus **whom you crucified.**" (Acts 2:36)
 - It doesn't get much worse than this!
- Response: "They were cut to the heart... 'What shall we do?'" (Acts 2:37)

Salvation!

- "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins...**"
 - The *core* of salvation is forgiveness of sins (Jer 31:34; Matt 6:14-15, 26:28; Mark 2:5; Acts 10:43, 13:38, etc.)
 - What's your worst sin? It's forgivable.
 - For Christians: if you're unfruitful and "stuck," you might have forgotten something... See 2 Peter 1:8-9.
- But forgiveness is not *everything* that salvation is! There's much more. Here are three items:
 - Last week we talked about **everlasting life** (John 10:27-28)

- Peter also proclaimed **the gift of the Holy Spirit** (Acts 2:38; the gift of internal renovation!)
- We are **adopted** as children of God (Gal 4:5, Rom 8:15, Eph 1:5)

Peter gives us three things to do:

1. Repent (= change your mind about how you live your life and turn toward God, Acts 2:38)
 - Repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin.
2. Be baptized (if you haven't been already; Acts 2:38)
3. Watch out for deadly influences
 - "Save yourselves from this crooked generation" (Acts 2:40)
 - Surprisingly strong language!
 - It wasn't just *that* generation, but this is a perennial problem (Deut 32:5; Matt 24:12-13; Luke 21:34; John 15:19; Rom 12:2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Rev 18:4)

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Do you have a favorite Bible verse that summarizes salvation? What is it?
2. Read Acts 2:14-41. Note the importance of forgiveness of sins! And what Peter tells the people to do.
 - a. Have you done these things?
 - b. Are you doing these things? Discuss and pray.
3. Advanced question. Discuss this statement overheard at a church: "Of course I'm saved, but let's move on from that basic stuff and get to the *meat.*"
 - a. Could this be a worrisome statement? See 2 Peter 1:8-9.
 - b. Consider also Hebrews 5:12-14 and 1 Cor 3:1-4.