

GOD'S WORK AND GOD'S WORD  
Acts 2:22-28

Intro: I am delaying the beginning of another series until the last Sunday of May.

- The reasons: 1) Mrs. Custis and I will be gone, the Lord willing, the first two Sundays in May. Our youngest son, Gary, will be graduating from Dallas Seminary on May 3. Dr. Mitchell will speak morning and evening on May 1 and 8. Mr. Bill Weeks will have the Tuesday Bible Class and the Wednesday Night Bible Class for those two weeks.
- 2) On the third Sunday in May we expect to be back, but on the fourth Sunday morning we will have Dr. G. Christian Weiss with us from the Back to the Bible Broadcast.

Therefore, with these changes in our schedule I plan to wait until May 29 to begin another series.

For the past 5 Sunday mornings we have been considering one of the greatest of all OT passages having to do with the sufferings and death of Christ: Isa. 52:13-53:12. Those words were written approximately 700 years before Christ.

This morning I want to ask you to turn to the first explanation of the work of Christ following our Lord's death and resurrection -- that which was given by Peter on the day of Pentecost and which is recorded in Acts 2, limiting ourselves to vv. 22-28. The message actually begins with v. 14 and continues through v. 36. It was a rather brief message, but a message used by the Lord to bring "about three thousand souls" to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The very fact that it is recorded is evidence of its great importance.

It is especially important to see that Peter did not have time to prepare, as such, for this message. He could not have known what was going to take place on that Day of Pentecost. And so he was speaking out of a heart that had been filled with certain OT passages and the truths which they contained.

The first thing that he does (which we will not consider this morning) is to refer to a passage in Joel 2 -- written (although we are not certain of the exact time) perhaps a little before Isaiah's prophecy.

The second thing he does is to explain in vv. 22-24 just what had happened to the Lord Jesus Christ -- WITH THIS SPECIAL EMPHASIS: HE DESCRIBES IT FROM GOD'S POINT-OF-VIEW!

(Read vv. 22-24, emphasizing "God.")

Therefore, our first point is:

# I. SALVATION -- THE WORK OF GOD (Acts 2:22-24).

And here Peter emphasizes three things about "Jesus of Nazareth":

- 1) His ministry of miracles (v. 22).
- 2) His death (v. 23).
- 3) His miraculous resurrection (v. 24). The truth of v. 22 prepares the way for the greatest miracle of all!

## A. His ministry of miracles (Acts 2:22).

Notice that "God did" them -- working with and through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. And in doing them, the Father was showing the Son to be "a man approved of God" -- which means that He was "marked out by God" (M. Henry, VI, 21), declared or shown or proven to be what He really was: the eternal Son of the living God! In other words He was a true man, but He was more than a man; see the great statement which Peter makes at the end of his message in v. 36: "both Lord and Christ."

Note the strong emphasis which Peter makes on the miracles. He describes them with three words -- used several times together in the NT:

- 1) "Miracles," or powers -- speaking of powers above human power, or earthly power, powers which have actually invaded our world which definitely are not a part of this system.
- 2) "Wonders," indicating something which is amazing because of its startling, extraordinary character -- a phenomenon which is to awaken interest and is to be remembered!
- 3) "Signs" point to something "out of and beyond itself" (Trench, 343) -- not an end in itself as was the case with Simon the sorcerer who wanted the power for the sake of itself. See Acts 8:18, 19. As described by this word, the miracle is not primarily important for what it is in itself, but for what it indicates about the person who exercises such miraculous powers.

Thus, having seen these miracles, Peter declares that:

- 1) God did them.
- 2) God did them "by Him," i.e., by Christ.
- 3) God did them "in the midst of you."
- 4) They knew that what Peter was saying was the truth!

## B. His death (Acts 2:23). And be careful to notice that we have the two aspects of our Lord's death mentioned here:

- 1) what God did; 2) what man did -- AND IN THIS ORDER!

1. What God did -- "Him (i.e., Christ), being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God."

Basically men to not take Him; God handed Him over. Remember John 19:10, 11.

And this handing over was in full, sovereign accord with a pre-determined,

deliberate,  
intelligent,  
decreed,  
defined,

plan -- not foreknown by God because He knew what man would do, but foreknown by God because He had ordained the whole thing by Himself.

Obviously God knew it ahead of time, but He <sup>fore-</sup>knew it because He had determined that it would be -- and it is mentioned in just that order here!

And now we are prepared to look at . . .

2. What man did -- "ye have taken, and by wicked (which means in total disregard for the Law) **hands** have crucified and slain."

And this language means that God held them fully responsible for what they had done!

The sovereign will of God does not in any way set aside the moral responsibility of man. Do not argue about it; believe it. This is the plain teaching of Scripture.

But that is not the end of the story. Note:

- C. His miraculous resurrection (Acts 2:24).

Note again that this is what "God" was doing! HE it was who "loosed the pains of death," probably meaning here not only delivering Him from the sufferings but also from the bands, the cords -- that which held Him in death and the grave!

But now notice this very, very important statement: "because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" -- which means that death could not retain Him.

Why? Because He was the Son of God? Yes, but that is not the reason given here.

IT WAS BECAUSE DAVID, WRITING IN PSALM 16, SAID THAT HE

WOULD NOT BE! And Scripture can never be broken! Cf.  
John 10:35.

How important it is to see this about . . .

— II. THE WORD OF GOD (Acts 2:25-28). Peter is quoting from Psa.  
16:8-11.

Have you memorized any Scripture lately?

There are two ways to take this Scripture -- and both are right!

- 1) Not only about the Lord, but as the actual words of the Lord Jesus Christ speaking of His relationship with the Father and the hope He had and the joy He experienced in the promises of God -- that which sustained Him in His sufferings.
- 2) That these are expressive of David's hope -- and the joy and peace that he (David) had come to know through the promise of God. All David had was the Word of God -- and yet that was enough!

Let us think about it from David's point-of-view, and then see the application to our own lives -- remembering at the same time that, if this applied to what the Lord Himself did, how much more important it is, and necessary, for us!

— A. What David did (Acts 2:25a).

He deliberately kept his eyes on the Lord, and had given the Lord the highest place of honor in his life -- "at my right hand."

B. Why David had done it, and did it continually (Acts 2:25b) -- "that I should not be moved," shaken, overthrown, cast down from one's joy and sense of security.

How easily we can be disturbed. We need to be looking at HIM!

C. The results David experienced (Acts 2:26).

He mentions three. They had to do with:

- 1) His "heart" -- inwardly there was great delight.
- 2) His "tongue" -- outwardly there was exceeding joy.
- 3) His "flesh," i.e., his body -- with respect to the future, there was "hope."

— D. The reason given (Acts 2:27).

It is all solidly based upon the promise of the resurrection of Christ -- which guaranteed David's resurrection, and ours too!

"Thine Holy One" is Christ, so called because He had completely fulfilled every obligation placed upon Him by God -- both personally and in His work. God was completely satisfied with His Son and the work of His Son.

E. The glory given (Acts 2:28).

Note: "Thou . . . ; thou . . ." Then see the "me . . .  
me . . ."

David says that God had made it known to him, and then God had fulfilled it in his own experience and life.

Concl: Do you see where Peter has placed the emphasis in dealing with salvation? It is with God, where it always has to be.

It is only when this is true that there can be salvation -- and with it -- assurance,  
joy,  
peace,  
and hope.

You and I could never have devised such a plan. And, even knowing it, we would never have accepted it apart from His sovereign grace.

The Lord Jesus Christ is "the author and finisher of our faith." Cf. Heb. 12:2. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

Phil. 1:6 tells us both that God began our salvation, and He is the One who will finish it.

If we believe this, then we will experience the results which David experienced when he realized that "salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9).

Will you receive Him?