

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

SALVATION PLANS

By Jeff Sweeten

In Peter's first Gospel sermon, he preached his heart out to what was probably the most hostile audience one can imagine in the hope that the planted Seed (Luke 8:11) would produce the fruit of repentance and remission of sins (Luke 24:47). Oh, how wonderful the response must have seemed to him after a rather pointed accusation that they were responsible for the crucifixion of the Son of God, and then to hear: "*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*" (Acts 2:37).

Yes, they – the Jews – had just killed Jesus Christ using a Roman cross. (Evidently, it is not politically correct in today's hyper-sensitive culture to defend the Scripture on this point but the Bible says that the Jews killed Jesus, Acts 3:13-15, and this truth has no bearing upon Jewish people today any more than holding white southern farmers responsible for last century's slavery; it is still the truth of the matter.) These Jews were guilty of sin and, if the Bible is to be believed, even **they** knew it and were desperately concerned about it! So, what did Peter tell them to do?

This is where modern doctrines on salvation get a little convoluted and confusing. Salvation plans these days are too off the cuff and too void of Bible for a student of divine Revelation. The question has always been and always will be: "Where did Peter go wrong?" He didn't tell them not to worry about it because "God *just* loves you" in spite of your rebellion, apathy or ignorance (one always has to stick "just" in there for sincerity's appearance because it *just* sounds more religious). He didn't tell them to say the "Sinner's Prayer" (and you will note that while the "prayer" is singular, depending upon who you ask, there are tons of different "prayers," none of which is found in the Bible anywhere in any form). No, instead, Peter just said, "*Repent and be baptized*" (Acts 2:38). Simple, isn't it?

If you plan on being saved, then the salvation plan offered by Peter on Pentecost (Acts 2:38) is your only hope. The plan was: Peter opened the door (since he possessed the keys to the Kingdom, Matthew 16:19), "*then those who gladly received his word were baptized*" (Acts 2:41) and "*the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved*" (Acts 2:47).

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130