

Recap of 4/11/21 message (Chris Sommerfieldi – Acts 2:37-47):

Transformed People Live Transformed Lives

TRANSFORMED PEOPLE REPENT AND ARE BAPTIZED (2:37-41)

- The people respond to Peter's gospel message due to its impact upon them (2:37)
- Peter instructs the people to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sin (2:38)
 - This verse is a common proof text for people claiming that physical baptism is necessary for salvation or a "filling" of the Holy Spirit. However, simple principles of biblical interpretation (Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application) can be used to see that Peter is using both the 2nd person singular (you) and 2nd person plural (y'all) in this verse. When correlation is used we see that in no way is physical baptism linked with salvation or a filling of the Holy Spirit. Peter is telling them that repentance is important for all to be forgiven of their sins, and once repentance has occurred, then each person individually should be baptized.

- Repentance is closely linked with faith, like two sides of the same coin as some have said. Repentance is not an extra work, it is an integral part of faith. The Greek concept of repentance involves a "changing of one's mind," and the Hebrew understanding is a "turning away of one thing toward another." In this we see that it is both thought and action which is why we see this close link between faith and repentance throughout the NT.

- Baptism is the outward symbol for an already internal reality. Like a wedding ring showing that a man or woman is married, the ring does not make them married, it is an external expression of that reality. Baptism, likewise, is the external expression of one's devotion to Christ and served in the early church as an entry into the community of faith.

TRANSFORMED LIVES ARE CHARACTERIZED BY DEVOTION (2:42-47)

- Devotion to God's revealed word is seen in the devotion to the apostle's teaching. The apostles taught from the OT scripture, what they had learned from Christ, and they were writing the NT scriptures during their ministry. We now have the completion of the revealed Word of God in the Bible. Our Transformed Lives should be characterized by devotion to God through the reading and application of His word.

- Devotion to the community of faith is seen in the breaking of bread (communion and "doing life together") and communal prayer (2:42)

- This devotion led to unity within the community, the caring of needs, and increased favor from all people as God continued to grow the church.