

ACTS of GOD #7: Receiving God's Forgiving Love

Acts 2:36-41 2/17/2019

Comprehending the Depth of God's Amazing Love

¹⁷ ...and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge,

-Ephesians 3:17b-19a

- Comprehend the depth of His love by admitting the darkness of my sin
- From Crayons to Cross-hatching: Proper shading expresses depth
- Being rooted & grounded in love provides basis for "shading"
- Breadth, Length, Height, & Depth enough to cover all my sin
- KNOWING the Love of Christ which surpasses knowledge
- We experience in faith what is beyond comprehension
- I cannot understand His sacrificial, forgiving love, but I know it

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

-Romans 5:8

Reviewing the Situation

- Disciples received understanding of the Scriptures & their role in fulfillment
- The Spirit's Power comes on Pentecost & a crowd is gathered in Jerusalem
- Peter explains everything from Scripture & proclaims Jesus as the Messiah
- The Messiah has come, died, rose again, & ascended to highest place
- The Messiah has sent the Spirit & waits for His enemies to be made low

Confronted with the Great Offense of Sin (v. 36)

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

- Peter boldly confronts those that had 2 months before shouted "Crucify"
- Know for Certain the One You Crucified is Christ

Convicted Hearts Cry Out for an Answer (v. 37)

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

- Pierced to the Heart by the Horror of their sin
- Convicted of Sin and Concerned about Judgment
- What shall we do?
- Looking to find a means of paying for their sinful mistakes
- Looking for actions to do or sacrifices to make for forgiveness

Called to Repent & Believe in His Name For Forgiveness (v. 38-39)

³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

- Turn from defiance to deference regarding God's revealed Messiah
- A changing of one's mind, one's will, and one's direction
- Turn to Jesus the Messiah in faith, publicly demonstrated by baptism

- For the forgiveness of your sins
- complete pardon and dismissal in Jesus Christ
- And you will receive the promised Holy Spirit
- The effect of forgiveness elevates them from enemy to family
- The same Spirit received by the Apostles & Believers is for them too.
- There is no differing status, all sinners saved by grace
- For you and your children and for all who are far off
- God's forgiving love covers over the shameful curses of the past
- ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water & washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." ²⁵ And all the people said, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!"
- Matthew 27:24-25**
- God's forgiving love crosses boundaries thought impossible
- The way of salvation for coming generations even beyond Israel
- God's forgiving love sovereignly calls out through the gospel
- Extended through us by the Lord
- Offered first to the most unlikely to be forgiven
- In concert with all who call on His name being saved

A Crooked Generation is encouraged to Believe (v. 40-41)

⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

- The number of believing souls grows...
- The solemn testimony and exhortation stands
- Sinners receive God's forgiving love,