

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 14, 2010

God's Word Through Peter
Acts 3:11-26

1. The crowd at the portico (3:11)

Solomon's portico was a covered entrance to the temple and provided a shaded area for the gathering.

The healed beggar served as a living illustration of why Peter should be listened to by the Jewish crowd.

2. The clarification of the power (3:12)

Peter quickly dismissed the notion that the healing of the beggar came from them.

3. The condemnation of the people (3:13-18)

Notice the names of Christ:

- His Servant (Isaiah 42:1; 49:6-7; 52:13; 53:11)
- Holy One (Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 31:1)
- Righteous One (Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 9:9)
- Prince or Author of life

There are several contrasts that highlighted the guilt of the people:

- Their desire to kill Jesus vs. Pilate's desire to free Him (3:13)
- Their choice to release a wicked man vs. God's choice to send them a Holy and Righteous One (3:14)
- Their killing the "Prince of life" vs. God's raising Him from the dead (3:15)
- Their lack of faith vs. the faith of the beggar (3:16)
- Their ignorance vs. the revelation of the prophets (3:17-18)

A proper response to Christ cannot come before a proper understanding of our need for Christ.

4. The command to repent (3:19-25)

Repentance literally means, "to change one's mind" and is a synonym of faith.

"Wiped away" refers to our sins being eliminated, as in the canceling of a debt (cf. Colossians 2:14).

The command to repent included an immediate individual offer of forgiveness and an ultimate national offer of the restoration of God's kingdom to Israel.

The presence of the Lord (literally, "the face of the Lord") speaks of his physical presence, not His spiritual presence (cf. Acts 13:24; Revelation 22:4).

The period of restoration is speaking of the return of Christ in the Millennial Kingdom (cf. Acts 1:6-7). The Old Testament prophets did not speak of the current church age.

In spite of Israel's rejection of Jesus Christ, they are given another opportunity to repent. We must likewise be longsuffering in seeing people come to repentance.

Moses' foretelling of Christ meant that if the Jewish people rejected Jesus Christ, they would be rejecting Moses himself (Deuteronomy 18:15; cf. John 1:21; 5:46-47 6:14; Acts 7:37).

The Jews, with privileged position as sons of the prophets and heirs of the covenant to Abraham, had a responsibility.

5. The concluding plea (3:26)

The implication of "first" is that God's message will be going to the Gentiles (cf. Romans 1:16).

May God give us the grace to turn from our wicked ways, by means of our relationship with Christ, which is on the basis of faith.

Paul was struck down, but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:9).

The word "struck down" (KATABALLO) means to be struck down as with a weapon or to be thrown down as in a wrestling match.

The word "destroyed" (APOLLUMI) could also be translated "ruined," "lost" or even "killed."

May God give us the grace to understand that our weakness provides the opportunity for the surpassing greatness of God's power to shine forth brightly in our ongoing bold proclamation of the gospel of Christ.