

Title: "What Shall We Do?"  
Text: Acts 2:37-41  
Date: August 6, 2023

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

Becoming a Christian is a journey from head through heart to hand. It isn't merely about *knowing* something; nor is it merely about *feeling* something; it is also about *doing* something. It either changes the life or it isn't real Christianity at all. "What does this mean?" (v. 12) must give way to "What shall we do?" (v. 37).

## Two Steps

### Step #1: Repent

In the biblical sense of the term, to repent is to *turn from* sin and to *turn towards* God and Christ and the gospel. You're not just turning from, you're turning towards. It's a bi-directional reality. We do an about face on the road to destruction and begin walking back towards the God who made us, the God who loves us, the God who sent his only beloved Son to die for us.

Peter calls us, in essence, to repent of our "crookedness". In the Bible there are two ways to be crooked . . .

- [Crooked Way #1: Irreligion](#)
- [Crooked Way #2: Religion](#)

### Step #2: Be Baptized

- [Aspect #1: Picturesque](#) - Baptism pictures a number of gospel realities for us. It pictures: (1) our surrender; (2) our union (cf. Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:11-12); and (3) our cleansing (cf. Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- [Aspect #2: Public](#) - Baptism is not something that's administered in secret or privately. It's not something we do "with all heads bowed and all eyes closed." It's something we do out in the open. It's a public declaration to the watching world that you're with Jesus.

## Four Gifts

### Gift #1: A New Record

God doesn't just wave his magic wand. He crushes his only beloved son. He puts your sin upon Jesus and makes him suffer the consequences, the judgement, the wrath . . . in your place. He took it so you don't have to.

### Gift #2: A New Intimacy

God clears our record so he can move towards us in relationship. He deals with the legal for the sake of the personal. He deals with our sin at the cross so he can then come and dwell in our hearts by the Spirit.

### Gift #3: A New Community

In Jesus we're given a new community. We're brought back into relationship with others in deep and meaningful ways. You're not alone.

### Gift #4: A New Ambition

When Peter says in Acts 2:39 that this promise is for those who are "far off", he cracks open the door that the Apostle Paul will later barrel through (cf. Acts 22:21; Eph. 2:13). The gospel is not just for the Jews. It's for everyone everywhere!

## One Underlying Cause

Our whole discussion this morning began with a concern for what we should do. That was the question of the crowd. But now fittingly, we end our time with Peter here drawing our attention, at last, not to what we can do, but to what God can do. That's the decisive piece. We don't save ourselves. He saves us. We call on the name of the Lord, but only because he's first called on us in mercy.



## Reflection Questions

- Are you currently en route with God from head through heart to hand would you say? Are you willing to walk with Peter from "What does this mean?" to "What shall we do?" Where do you get stopped up along the way?
- Which crooked way are you currently more tempted towards? Why do you think? What do you need to repent of even now?
- Which of the four gifts seems most relevant to you and why?

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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

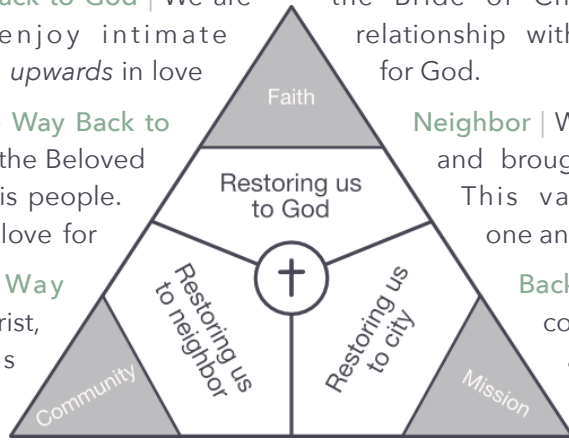
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### All Church Hangout - BBQ-Style . . . TODAY!!!

Join us immediately following the service today for our All Church Hangout. Our plan is to grill hot dogs and burgers (with a veggie option, if preferred)! We'll also have cotton candy, water balloons and other fun activities—not just for the "little kids", but also for us "big kids" as well : )

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

### Redwood Walk Adventure - Saturday, August 12th!

Mercy Hill Families, we are excited to announce our next outdoor adventure! This time we will be exploring the giant redwood trees found within Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park as well as continuing some creek walking fun at Cable Car Beach near the San Lorenzo River! Much of the trail is stroller friendly and relatively easy so please bring your entire family and any friends you would like to invite along! We hope you all are able to join us as we gaze up in wonder at the majestic green giants our Lord has created!

Please see the QR code below for additional information and a place to RSVP!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Megan Weber at [kids@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:kids@mercyhillchurch.org).

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