

ACTS

Part 8 – “True healing and restoration come through the risen Christ.”

Acts 3:11-26

True healing and restoration come through the risen Christ.

1. This physical healing pointed to the nature of the redemptive work of Christ.
2. Faith in the person of Jesus Christ brings this restoration – wholeness, perfect health (v. 16).
 - a. As they proclaim this they deflect any personal credit (v. 12).
 - b. They give reason for the hope they have (1 Peter 3:15).
3. This promise is trustworthy because God raised Jesus from the dead – Peter and John were witness of it (v. 15).
4. This healing points toward the day of the restoration of all things (v. 21).
 - a. Reestablishment, the return to an appointed state, establishing again the original creation’s pristine character
 - b. The OT refers to this as Shalom.

Application

1. Will you believe this? Will you put your faith in Him?
2. If you already believe this, will you put your hope in Him in the midst of your difficult circumstances?

Denial of Jesus leads to our condemnation.

1. Jesus is the provision God has made for us in order to be right with Him.
2. He is what all of scripture points to.
 - a. Peter refers to the patriarchs and to Isaiah’s prophecy of the suffering servant (Isaiah 52-53).
 - i. (v. 13) Jesus was glorified; Is. 52:13 - “...my servant shall be high and lifted up, he shall be exalted.”
 - ii. (v. 14) The Holy and Righteous One; Is. 53:11 – “Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.”
 - b. (v. 22) – Moses prophesied that God would raise a prophet who is the one True prophet – Peter is saying this has been fulfilled in Jesus.
 - c. (v. 24) – Samuel and those who came after him prophesied of “these days” – referring to these particular days of God revealing His plan of salvation in Jesus.
 - d. (v. 25) – The singular “offspring” of Abraham is Jesus – the one who blesses the nations.
3. Denial of Jesus leads to our destruction.
 - a. (v. 23) – Those who do not listen to Jesus will be destroyed.
 - i. This stern warning is to the covenant people of God. Those who deny Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s covenant faithfulness cannot depend upon ethnic or religious identity for salvation. Failure to respond to Jesus, the true prophet, results in total judgment.
 - b. (vv. 14-15) The accusation against the crowd reveals their guilt.
 - i. You handed Him over, disowned Him, requested a murderer to be released, and you killed Him.
 1. You killed the author of life (v. 15).
 2. You released a murderer (v. 14).
 - c. (v. 17) Ignorance does not excuse us or let us remain innocent.
 - i. God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility side by side (vv. 17-18)
 - ii. God decreed it but we, out of our own sinful desire, killed His Son.
 - iii. We are still held accountable.

Application

1. We can't have moral, ethical Jesus without his divinity. This is a huge part of the divide in the church today. We want some good teaching, ethics, and nice stories, but when we must respond and follow Him as Lord and Savior, the risk, the reputation, and the cost can seem to be too great.
2. He is either who He says He is, or He is a liar or a lunatic.
3. Don't rely upon your baptism, your upbringing, your nationality, or your social status for acceptance in the eyes of God. Your baptism points to salvation for those who believe in Jesus alone. Your upbringing, nationality, social status merit nothing if your life is void of faith in Jesus Christ.

Repent and turn toward God (vv. 19-21)

1. Repent – changing of mind and heart; confessing wrongdoing and giving up sin
2. Turn – changing of direction to be in line with God; turning away from a life characterized by disobedience and ignorance and turning to a new life of faith and obedience.
3. God's promises associated with repentance:
 - a. Blotting out of sins – to remove so as to leave no trace
 - b. Times of refreshing – lifting of the burden of sin, relief from our guilt, new life in the age of salvation through Christ (a cooling balm, drying of a wound, rest)
 - c. The return of Jesus for his people at the appointed time for full creational restoration
 - d. John Stott calls these three promises "total forgiveness, spiritual refreshment, universal restoration."
4. God's kindness is demonstrated in Him not letting us remain in our wickedness (v. 26).
 - a. We again see God's sovereignty and our responsibility.
 - b. We are called to repent and turn away, and God turns us from our wickedness.

Thomas Chalmers - "The only way to dispossess the heart of an old affection is through the expulsive power of a new one. It is therefore only when admitted into the number of God's children through faith in Jesus Christ that the spirit of adoption is poured out on us - it is then that the heart, brought under the mastery of one great, predominate, and supreme affection, is delivered from the tyranny of all its former desires and the only way that deliverance is possible."

Application

Our desire is that the supreme affection toward our risen Savior leads us to repentance and diminishes our desires for sin and wickedness. Repentance and turning to God is not a burden but rather it is a discipline that reorients our hearts to the beauty and truth of the resurrection, the promise of new life in Christ, and the hope of a future void of the sting of sin and death.