

Listen To Peter



Peter and the other apostles began proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). In Acts 2:37 we learn, **"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren what shall we do.'"** It should come as no surprise that the preaching of the gospel was the means by which individuals would become convicted of their sins. (Romans 1:16 & Hebrews 4:12) The question asked, "What shall we do" is still of universal importance today. The answer to that question leads to the forgiveness of sins, thus reconciliation to God. Therefore Peter's response to the question is of utmost importance even today.

What Peter Didn't Say

Peter **DID NOT RESOND** to the question "What shall we do?" by stating, "Confess Jesus as your personal Savior." (Acts 2:38-40)

Peter **DID NOT RESOND** to the question "What shall we do?" by stating, "There is nothing you can do." (Acts 2:38-40)

Peter **DID NOT TEACH** the concept of "belief only." (Acts 2:38-40)

Peter **DID NOT TEACH** that baptism was simply an outward sign displaying that one was already saved. (Acts 2:38-40)

What Peter Did Say

Peter answered the question, "What shall we do?" by stating, **"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"** (Acts 2:38) The student of the scriptures understands that the answer given by Peter was directed by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13-15, Acts 2:4 & 14, 2nd Timothy 3:16-17 & 2nd Peter 1:20-21) Therefore the scripturally correct answer to the question "What shall we do?" is Peter's response in Acts 2:38. Yet many have chosen to ignore Peter's inspired answer and substitute the doctrines of uninspired men. Such tampering with the word of God will lead many down the path of destruction with a false hope of salvation. (Matthew 7:21-23, 2nd Thessalonians 2:10-12 & 2nd John 9)

Whose instructions have you chose to follow concerning the question, **"What shall we do?"**

* * * * Chuck Kozens

Uzzah

Why did Uzzah die? To learn the answer of our question one can turn to 2nd Samuel 6:6-7 and 1st Chronicles 13:9-10. Both sections of scripture reveal that Uzzah's death was due to the fact that he handled the ark of God in his attempt to keep it from falling off the ox cart.

Some may view Uzzah's action as insignificant to receive God's wrath. Others may even be tempted to justify and praise Uzzah in his attempt to steady the ark so that it didn't fall off the ox cart and become damaged or destroyed. However, God showed his displeasure in this matter by striking Uzzah dead. Why?

Let me suggest two reasons. First, the ark was to be transported on the shoulders of the Levites (1st Chronicles 15:2 & 15). Second, nobody except for the sons of Aaron were to touch the ark (Numbers 4:5-15). Therefore, the action of Uzzah, regardless of how well meaning it was, was in violation of God's instructions. The penalty for such a violation was death (Numbers 4:15). There is a very important lesson to be learned from this Biblical event, and that is **ALWAYS HIGHLY ESTEEM THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD AND FOLLOW THEM.**

But what about you, my friend, do you revere God's teachings in your life? Remember, God has given all authority to Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20, Philippians 2:9-11) Do you highly esteem and obey the teachings of Christ as contained within the New Testament? Is your life in harmony with the pattern of salvation, worship, and daily conduct as contained within the teachings of

Christ (2nd Corinthians 13:5, Romans 10:17 and 2nd John 9)? Will you face spiritual death (eternal separation from God and heaven) due to a disregard or disobedience to the teachings of Christ? Remember the devastating outcome of the foolish man? (Matthew 7:24-27) Such a tragic result need not happen to you if you will only take time to study and apply the teachings of the New Testament. Remember, **"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"** (James 1:21-22). **DON'T TAKE THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST LIGHTLY.** (John 12:48) Your soul is at stake!

**** Chuck Kozens