**Calling on the Name of the Lord**

Acts 2:14–41

**Introduction**

A. Jesus promised the apostles that they would receive the Holy Spirit and special power from him. This happened at Pentecost – Acts 1:4–9; 2:1–4.

B. That the apostles were miraculously able to speak in other languages partially proved to their hearers that God was with them – 2:5–13; see vv. 14–21.

**Paul recognizes the value of speaking in tongues—especially for unbelievers—in 1 Corinthians 14:21–22 (see also Isaiah 28:11).**

C. Peter took the lead and preached to the Jewish audience. This was likely a partial fulfillment of Matthew 16:18–19 – Acts 2:14.

**Peter is the focus of Acts 1–12, just as Paul is the focus of 13–28. In this series, we will examine three sermons of Peter, one of Stephen, one of Philip, and two of Paul.**

**The sermon in Acts 2 divides into three major sections: explanation (vv. 14–21), exposition (vv. 22–36), and exhortation (vv. 37–40).**

**Explanation of the Power**

A. Some of the Jews suspected that the apostles were drunk. Peter first defended against their accusation by noting that it was not practical – Acts 2:14–15.

**It seems unlikely that the mockers were accusing the apostles of being drunk on freshly-squeezed grape juice—for such would not be available for another couple of months—but on cheap wine, only partially fermented (see 1 Corinthians 14:23).**

**The third hour of the day would be around 9:00 am. People typically get drunk at night, not in the morning (see 1 Thessalonians 5:7).**

B. Peter next affirmed that the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the apostles was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel – vv. 16–21; see Joel 2:28–32.

C. Peter intentionally closed his quotation of Joel with the promise of salvation. This served as the theme of the rest of his sermon – see Acts 2:21.

**Exposition of the Prophecy**

A. Having noted that salvation was available to anyone who would call on the Lord, Peter explained the prophecy in light of Jesus Christ – Acts 2:21, 36.

**“Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is he the best of several ways; he is the only way” (A. W. Tozer).**

B. How can we know Jesus is the Lord? He was attested by miracles, raised from the dead, and exalted by God – vv. 22–35; see Hebrews 2:3–4.

**The death of Jesus was predetermined by God and foretold in the OT, and the resurrection validates the claims of Jesus and his apostles. Jesus’s perfect life (“the Holy One”) made death a temporary confinement, just as David had prophesied. The empty tomb stands as a testament to the truth of the resurrection! Likewise, the testimony of the eyewitnesses and of the Holy Spirit proves that Jesus is alive and that he has been exalted.**

C. Jesus is Lord and Christ, and we must call on his name if we want to be saved from our sins – Acts 2:36; see 4:12; John 14:6; Philippians 2:9–11.

**Exhortation for the People**

A. Some of those who heard Peter’s sermon were touched by indictment and wanted to find forgiveness of their sins – Acts 2:37; see 7:54; 16:30.

**“Since no man is excluded from calling upon God the gate of salvation is open to all. There is nothing else to hinder us from entering but our own unbelief” (John Calvin).**

B. Peter implored them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus so that they might receive forgiveness (salvation) – 2:38; see v. 40; 22:16.

**“Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21; Joel 2:32).**

**“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38).**

C. Those who received the good news were saved and added to the church. The same blessings are available to us. What will you choose? – 2:38–42.

**“Saving us is the greatest and most concrete demonstration of God’s love, the definite display of his grace throughout time and eternity” (David Jeremiah).**