

A Like Anxious Concern

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

Give, Lord, to all who are in their sins a like compunction of heart, and a like anxious concern what they shall do. And if this be the case of any of us, Lord, give it to us now, Blessed be thy name for the encouraging words spoken by thy apostle to those who were under such concern.

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost: for the promise is to you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.” Among those Jews there probably were many who had demanded thy crucifixion: and perhaps had mocked and insulted thee: or assisted in nailing thee to the cross.

Yet thou sentest thy Holy Spirit from heaven to preach to them by thy apostle, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you." And this is spoken to us also. O loving Saviour, we repent of all we ever did against thee. We repent of our having any hand in crucifying thee. (Give us true repentance.) We were... baptized in thy name. We recognize our baptism.

We desire to renounce the devil, the world, and the flesh, and to put all our trust in thee; to be washed from the guilt and defilement of all our sins in thy blood; to be accepted through thy merits; to have thy Father for our Father; to have thy Spirit for our sanctifier, guide, and Comforter; and being dead to sin and alive to God, in thy strength to walk suitably to these glorious privileges.

And whatever else is implied in being baptized in thy name, we here, through thy grace, engage to it. Oh then, let us receive the remission of our sins, and the gift of the Holy Ghost: for we are among those to whom the promise is sent.

We were afar off; but thou art calling us by the gospel. Save us from the bad example of a wicked world. Thou knowest "we gladly hear, and, we hope, we gladly receive, the word of thy salvation:" May we therefore be of thy true church, to which thou addest continually such as shall be saved.

(The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; with Devotional Reflections, Vol. II. by John Gillies, London: Printed and Sold by Richard Edwards, 1810, 12-13, e-book, Text and Paragraph structure modified)