

# What Should We Do

## part 2

1. Last week we started to talk about...what I consider an important question
  - a. It is the question that every new believer must ask
  - b. At salvation we discover...that we are sinners...who are deserving Judgement for our sin...and Jesus is the only one who can save us
  - c. This is part one of the salvation message...But we notice acts chapter 2 doesn't end at verse 37...Peter has more to say
  - d. Something the Christian who is spreading the gospel will notice in this section of scripture
  - e. Peter's words don't change a vast majority of the people ...until...until ...something has happened...their heart must be pierced
  - f. It is the very thing...the very saving power of the Holy Spirit...that makes us realize...that are sinners...that causes us...to ask the question
  - g. It is this changed heart...that helps us to desire to get right with God
  - h. What is our evidence....that we have received this saving power...a changed life...empowered by the Holy Spirit in now living in our hearts
  - i. Without the changed heart...there is no change to our lives...there is no fruit in our life...and if there is no fruit...you don't have it

- j. When Jesus encountered people in the Bible...by healing them...or casting demons...or revealing Himself to them as God
  - k. Jesus asked them to do things...to the man with a legion of demons...He told him to give his testimony to people who knew him
  - l. To the woman caught in adultery...go sin no more
  - m. To the leper...go be examined by the priest and make the proper offering at the temple
  - n. The idea is to show others how Jesus changed your heart and your life
  - o. To start to produce fruit...
  - p. We talked last week about how everyone is different...and how fruit is different for each person
  - q. All of us are also in different places...in our relationship with God...and no one has reached perfection
  - r. But if we are continuing to grow in our relationship with God
  - s. Then we are discovering new things in which the Holy Spirit is dealing with us...so we can start to produce fruit in that area of our life
  - t. Which means the question should be the same...Lord what should we do...because faith is a verb...or an action
  - u. In our culture today...this society we live in is very angry...angry people can not produce the righteousness God's desires
  - v. Let's read what James has to say on the subject
2. James 1:19-21, 19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not

produce the righteousness God desires. 21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

- a. Verse 21 is tough...but it is an important step...into becoming fruit producers
  - b. And also the answer the question...of what should we do in an angry society
  - c. Notice it didn't say...only get rid of **Just** some of the filth...in certain situations...so that it looks like you are making an effort
  - d. It didn't read...get rid of the filth while you are at church...or around other believers
  - e. No it says...get rid of all the filth and evil...why...because it is the power...to save your souls
  - f. I am hoping to get to 2 Tim 3:5 this morning...because it teaches us about the last days...and how people will behave in the last day
  - g. It says...that we will be able to recognize the last days
  - h. Because the church will be holding a form of godliness...but have denied the power that could save them
  - i. The hardest lesson...is verse 22...which also answers the question...that we have been asking for weeks...what should we do
3. James 1:22-25, 22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk

away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

- a. In other words...study the word...and be doers of the word
  - b. Don't study the word...and realize your sin...and then somehow justifying going right back to the world...without accomplishing any change
  - c. A changed heart doesn't forget...Study the word...look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free
  - d. This is the power that will change your heart...how...by becoming doers of the word
  - e. James is going to now give us an example of being a doer
4. James 1:26-27, 26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. 27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.
- a. Who is caring for widow and orphans in distress and **refusing...refusing** to let the world corrupt you
  - b. Caring for others...helping the helpless...and refusing to let the world corrupt you...is a choice
  - c. You may be thinking...I don't know any widows or orphans in distress
  - d. I want to review...from last week...what John the Baptist said to the people he was baptizing...when they asked what should they do

5. Luke 3:10-14, 10 The crowds asked, "What should we do?" 11 John replied, "If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry." 12 Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13 He replied, "Collect no more taxes than the government requires." 14 "What should we do?" asked some soldiers. John replied, "Don't extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay."
- a. Everything John mentioned...have to do repenting...or changing...which is motivated...by the new condition...of their hearts
  - b. If their salvation is real...then they will be a new creation...with a brand new fruit bearing heart
  - c. The condition of the heart...has to do with what is being put in the heart...if you put the things of God in...you will start to desire to choose God
  - d. If you put the things of the world in your heart...you will choose the world
  - e. James said...start serving others...and refuse to let the world corrupt you
  - f. The sermon on the mount...given by Jesus...all have to do with the condition of our hearts...
  - g. How our actions...or our motivation is a result of the condition of our hearts...
  - h. The 4 gospels are full of situations where Jesus is moved in compassion by the faith He sees in people hearts
6. Acts 2:37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

- a. No one can be bullied into true change...discovering the love of Jesus for each of us...is what will motivate us to change
  - b. I naturally resist being forced into things...ask Cathy
  - c. Jesus never forced me to obey Him...but His love for me...is what broke my will...and caused me to desire to follow Him
  - d. It is only this change of heart...that is the very power that will save us
  - e. This power of being loved by the Lord...is what will cause us to desire to love the things of God...more than the things of the world
  - f. Peter says the same thing John the Baptist says...the same thing Paul says...the same thing James says...and the same thing Jesus says
7. Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God."
- a. There are three things to note about these 3000 converts to Christianity
  - b. First thing we notice is the reaction to the crowd to Peter's sermon, meaning they were cut to the heart
  - c. Their actions prior to this event...was to shout crucify Jesus 50 days ago
  - d. Now they realize Jesus is the Lord...and the Savior of the New covenant
  - e. All of us are guilty of the same thing...our sins...Jesus also died for our sin
8. Slide... The first thing Peter tells them to do is repent

- a. This means to change...not just feel bad for sin...that has already happened when the heart was pierced
  - b. This is why they asked the question...what should we do...here is the first answer...repent...which means to change
9. Slide...The second thing Peter tells them to do is be baptized
- a. This is putting their faith into action...showing they...have a changed heart
  - b. They must become doers...through an act of faith of baptism
  - c. That represents...the death to the old man...and becoming a new life...or a new creation in Christ
  - d. Baptism is not required for salvation...but rather...is an act of a changed heart...and a work of learning to obey the Holy Spirit
  - e. The third issue...the most important issue
10. Slide...The result of the gospel is salvation
- a. Being saved from the coming judgement
11. Acts 2:40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"
- a. If there is any time that this statement is true...is today...especially with our crooked generation...that we are living in today
  - b. Please look again at Peter's advice...save yourselves...by repenting... by changing...by moving in faith...through action...
  - c. With the first step is through baptism
  - d. We are to mimic Christ...with our own death to ourself...and resurrection into a new creation...which is proven...by our new actions

- e. Then through reading God's word...James said...by look carefully into the perfect law...it will set you free
- f. The word of God will free us...which allows us to make the necessary changes to our lives
- g. So that we use the very power...that will save our souls...the power of a changed man...the power of a changed new creation in Christ
- h. This generation today...is very crooked...where bad is good and good is bad...when the people are becoming more and more lawless
- i. It is easy to say...I am a Christian...and I know this because I am better than them...
- j. Someone's hypocrisy is not a justification for our lack of victory
- k. God's standard has not changed...He is still a holy God
- l. At the same time...if we spent our time trying to put logic argument to evilness and hypocrisy of our society today
- m. Then we are not focused on...living the Bible...God's word
- n. Many of us Christians are spending time trying to put logic to what evil people or even what the media are saying
- o. What we need to realize...is this is anti logic...anti right from wrong...it is anti moral...anti God and anti Christ
- p. Turn to 2 Tim 3 and lets look at what the people will act like in the last days

12. 2 Tim 3:1-9, 1 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.

- a. Jesus said the narrow path is difficult...which is the opposite of what Paul is going to list for us here

13. 2 Tim 3:2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

- a. They will act religious...but reject the power that could make them Godly
- b. They will put on the appearance of godliness...but will not become doers of the word of God
- c. I personally believe the power they are lacking...is the power that causes people to live a life that is dedicated to Christ
- d. The same power that caused the people to **GO**...and see John the Baptist
- e. The power that caused them to see they were not right with God...and it is the same power to desire to repent...or change
- f. Not realizing you need to change...but to actually change
- g. These people cheapen the sacrifice of Jesus...because they only think it is something to obtain...rather than a way of life
- h. This is the same power at work in Acts 2...the pierced heart wants to get right with God...

- i. Paul describes the last days to Timothy...our world looks almost exactly what Paul is describing
- j. The American church looks like this also...they are lacking power
- k. My life looks like the world sometimes...and I am tired of it
- l. A few weeks ago...I was describing people who thought they were safe with God...only to find out they were not
- m. They were acting religious...but rejected the power that could make them godly
- n. It wasn't because they lacked the opportunity...but because they lacked the desire...only because...their hearts were not truly changed
- o. They didn't want the true power of God...but the things of the world...the 3<sup>rd</sup> soil

14. 2 Tim 3:6 They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. 7 (Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.)

- a. They are forever following new teachings...because they were never able to understand the truth
- b. Many people...men and women...are tricked everyday...into following new teachings...because it justifies the way they are...without any change
- c. The easy gospel...the American gospel...the foolish thinking that a holy God will honor our worldly behavior
- d. This is denying the very power that can save them

15. 2 Tim 3:8 These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. 9 But they won't get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as with Jannes and Jambres.

16. Slide... The Bible does not give us much information on who Jannes and Jambres are

- a. Their names of these two men appear only once in the entire Bible...in 2 Timothy 3:8
- b. In order to get the full understanding who these guys are...we need to look at some other Jewish historical books
- c. I will share what some of these books say about Jannes and Jabres
- d. Jewish tradition says that Jannes and Jambres were the two chief magicians who stood up against Moses and Aaron in Exodus 7
- e. Moses and Arron were confronting Pharaoh...trying get Pharaoh to let the Jewish people go
- f. In order to prove to Pharaoh they were sent by God...Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh it became a snake
- g. Then Pharaoh summoned sorcerers...or magicians named Jannes and Jambres...who also made their staff become a snake...by their secret arts
- h. But Aaron's then staff swallowed up their staffs" (verses 10-12).
- i. Later, these same sorcerers duplicated the changing of water into blood (Exodus 7:22) and the production of frogs (8:7).

- j. However, the sorcerers were powerless to duplicate the other plagues (8:19).
- k. Here is my point...they looked Godly...but lacked the power to make them truly Godly...and are a type of anti Christ
- l. The names “Jannes” and “Jambres” also appear in the Talmud as well
- m. The Talmud is a commentary book...written by rabbis about the Bible
- n. According to one midrash...the two magicians left Egypt with the Israelites after the first Passover (see Exodus 12:38)
- o. These two guys were later instrumental in promoting the worship of the golden calf that Aaron made (Exodus 32)
- p. Another midrash identifies these “two servants” of Balaam...as Jannes and Jambres (Numbers 22:22).
- q. According to the midrash and other sources, Jannes and Jambres
- r. Continued to exert a wicked influences...on the people of Israel until the time of Phinehas (Numbers 25)
- s. Here is the point...these guys don’t deny God...only the true power that could really save them
- t. They are looking religious...but are truly not of God

- u. These stories are interesting...but they should not be taken as equivalent to inspired Scripture
- v. The point being...is these guys...are the type of people who will be active in the last days...which we easily see their spirit at work today in the churches
- w. This kind of spirit is going to actively reject the truth of God...for a false truth...in the last days