

"AN IMPORTANT TEACHING IN ACTS 2:38"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

An elderly woman had just returned to her house from church services when she saw that a stranger had broken into her house. She surprised the man in the act of robbing her home and yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38!" (Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.) The burglar stopped and froze in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the police officer put handcuffs on the man and placed him under arrest, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you." "Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an ax and two 38's!"

This may sound a bit comical but Acts 2:38 is a very important verse of Scripture. It was recorded as words spoken by the Apostle Peter on the birthday of the church. When mankind was rejecting Jesus as Savior, they came to their senses, as their consciences were convicting them. They asked a very important question as is recorded in verse 37, that being "...What must we do...(to be saved?)" They realized they were lost sinners and needed salvation.

Peter was led by the Holy Spirit to tell them to do two things as a believer and they would get two things as recorded in verse 38. First they were told to **REPENT** -- that is turn from known sin in one's life. Second, they were told to be **BAPTIZED**. That was to be immersed in water.

The person who did this was promised she/he would be forgiven of sins and also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Today when a person wants to be saved they need to look to Acts 2:38 and do as lost sinners did 2,000 years ago, and avoid modern day methods.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible teaches in Acts that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)
- 6) Be Active In The Church (2:47)

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