

October 8/9, 2005

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
A Community of Believers
Acts 2:37-47
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. What is the difference between viewing Christ as our ticket to heaven versus viewing Christ as the source of a new life within us?

Which view do most Christians seem to hold and what is the evidence to support your conclusion?

2. On a practical and daily basis, what should be the evidence that our sins have been forgiven and the very Spirit of Jesus lives in us?

In what ways would the unbelievers around us witness these truths in us?

Bible Study

1. Quickly review what you have learned so far in Acts 1:1-2:36.
2. Read Acts 2:37-47. Peter specifically identifies two benefits from the people's willingness to repent (i.e., change their minds and hearts) and receive his word (i.e., believe). Those two benefits were the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Considering who Peter's audience is at this time, what makes this such a hope-filled message?
3. In verse 40, Peter exhorted the people, "**Be saved from this perverse generation!**" Today we would say, "Be saved from this godless culture." This implies that the change in attitude and behavior was not slight but radical. The forgiveness of sins and the very life of the Spirit in them should cause them to live counter to the culture. Verses 42-47 summarize the expression of this new life by identifying what these believers were continually devoting themselves to. With this in mind, how is each of these expressions or values counter to the culture in which we live?
4. According to Acts 2:47, what was the result of the life of this new community of believers?

How does this correlate with Acts 1:8?

In what way are we to be witnesses?

5. In these ten verses we can easily identify the seven core values of Lincoln Berean:

Instruction (verse 42)

Community (verse 42)

Worship (verse 42 “the breaking of bread”)

Prayer (verse 42)

Stewardship (verse 45)

Service (verses 45,46)

Outreach (verse 47)

These core values were simply the outflow or expression of having their sins forgiven and having the Spirit of Jesus alive in them. It is easy to say we view our salvation as more than merely a ticket to heaven, but in what ways are these values evident in your daily life?

In what ways are we truly countercultural?

Application

1. The first step in our life with Christ is to repent and believe. Having done that, you experience forgiveness of sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Your public testimony of this decision is water baptism. To believe and be baptized would be the first steps of obedience. Have you taken these first steps?
2. Prayerfully consider the seven core values and ask God to help you identify which areas you need to grow in the most. Share those areas with the group and brainstorm how your LifeGroup might help one another grow in these areas.