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Lakeland Hills Leader

Proving The Practices Of Christianity

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As we continue to examine the method of salvation, remember we discovered that Jesus is the origin of truth [John 14:6; 16:13-15], thus giving Him the authority [Matthew 28:18] to dictate the terms of salvation. Likewise, we learned we must believe Jesus words and by extension the apostles teaching [Acts 2:42]. So, we conclude that we must hear Jesus' words and believe them. The teaching and work of Jesus was testified by the law and prophets of old [John 5:39; Acts 3:19-26], so we can have confidence in following His instruction, therefore we will pick up with that understanding with the specifics of the salvation in Jesus.

Having heard and believed, Jesus explicitly instructs to repent and be baptized/immersed for the remission/forgiveness of sins [Acts 2:38]. This is a direct command issued by Peter on the day of Pentecost and if this were all that was revealed it would be sufficient to be authoritative. First, because we saw that Jesus gave the keys to the kingdom to the apostles [Matthew 16:19] and second, because the Holy Spirit was given to the apostles to guide them into all truth [John 16:13], and third, we learn, *those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.* [Acts 2:41] Therefore, they devotedly continued in the apostles teaching [Acts 2:42], even in the terms of salvation.

Are there any other terms of salvation expressed in this text? Remember the three avenues to determine authority, direct command, divinely approved example, and necessary inference. Notice the hearers' response to Peter's charge in verse 36, *Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.* On the basis of his sermon that concluded this conviction, *they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"* [Acts 2:37] Therefore, they confess their guilt in the killing of Jesus, and confess Jesus as the Lord and Christ at the same time. We conclude by **necessary inference** they confess Jesus as the Christ.

If we include hear and believe, then we note they remained to hear Peter's sermon, else how would they respond to it, and it is implied they believed, since they responded to Peter's charge with the question "what shall we do"?

Someone might dismiss this as a unique first century Jewish requirement, but we will add verse 39 to the discussion, *For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.* [Acts 2:39] And we note by this not only the Jews and their children, but those afar off were by implication those who did not have the law of Moses, thus being distant, not in time or space, but in relationship. Remember the promise of inclusion of all was given implicitly to Abram [Genesis 12:3], and finally realized in Cornelius the centurion as the first non-Jew to be offered the invitation of the Lord Jesus Christ [Acts 10].

Is there a divinely approved example in this text? We notice they were cut to the heart and asked what they should do, verse 37, and those who received Peter's word were baptized verse 41, based upon his **direct command** in verse 38. Remember Peter is guided by the Holy Spirit who was given

to the Apostles to guide them into all truth. Therefore we conclude we also have a **divinely approved example** as well.

In this text we have identified direct command, necessary inference, and even a divinely approved example.

It is sad, that many do not see the simple, and wonderful plan of salvation, but we can build our hope on the excitement and joy of those first century souls who heard, believed, repented, confessed, and was immersed for the remission of their sins. And those who were afar off would have the same opportunity soon, and all these years later we have the same opportunity they were given. I have responded to the invitation, will you?

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- * "Be the change you want to see in other people!"
(Philippians 4:1-9; Romans 12)
- * "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only!"
(James 1:22; 1Thessalonians 5:12-28)
- * "Character is what we stand for, reputation is what we fall for!"
(2Peter 1:5-11)
- * "Each of us has the ability to lighten another's load!" (Galatians 6:2)
- * "Before facing the challenges of the day, face the day with God!"
(Luke 4:42; 5:16; Matthew 14:23; 1Timothy 2:1-8)