

Save Yourself!

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On the great day of the church's birth, the Day of Pentecost (about A.D. 30), Peter preached to the large Jewish crowd that assembled for the feast. He informed them of the Savior's death, burial and resurrection (**Acts. 2:22-24**). He also preached that Jesus was then exalted at the right hand of God in accordance with Old Testament prophecy (**2:23-24**). Finally, Peter accused his hearers of having murdered the Messiah, Who now had been made "BOTH LORD AND CHRIST" (**2:36**). Having been convinced of his accusation, and horrified at the consequences of their sins, they cried out, "MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?" Peter preached to these believers the Gospel plan of salvation, "REPENT AND LET EVERY ONE OF YOU BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS; AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (**2:38; Mark 16:16**). Some final exhortations were given to encourage an obedient response including, "SAVE YOURSELVES FROM THIS UNTOWARD GENERATION" (KJV, or "BE SAVED FROM THIS PERVERSE GENERATION," NKJV).

There is a sense in which man saves himself. No, man cannot supply the means of his own salvation. That is, he cannot shed saving blood for himself and others which God would accept as a ransom for his soul. Only Jesus can do that. It is by His blood that man is redeemed (**I Peter 1:18-19**). He alone could give his life as a "RANSOM FOR MANY" (**Matthew 20:28**). Only Jesus, by His saving death, becomes the Way for man to secure Heaven (**John 14:6**).

But, Gospel conditions are given to man which he must meet in order to receive "REMISSION OF SINS" by Christ's blood. Peter faithfully delivered these conditions (commands) in **Acts 2:38** and exhorted his hearers to immediately obey them and receive the blessings of Heaven.

"Save yourselves" may sound strange to those who have been convinced by denominational teaching that "faith only" in what Jesus has done will save. But, the inspired apostle gave commands that only man can fulfill. Jesus will not obey those commands for us. He has done His part in making forgiveness of sins possible. The Father did His part in sending His Son and commanding Him to go to the Cross (**John 3:16, John 10:17-18**). The Holy Spirit has done His part by inspiring the Gospel to be written (**II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21**).

The church will work for you salvation. Friends will. Good Christian people will. Family members will pray for you and diligently plead with you. But only **ONE** has the power to obey the Gospel, that is **YOU (II Thessalonians 1:7-9)**. Only **ONE** has the power to live faithfully for Christ. So, **SAVE YOURSELF!**