

God's Two Laws of Pardon

Acts 8:5-25

Introduction:

- A. This passage illustrates the power of preaching – changed Simon's city (vv. 9-11)
- B. This passage also illustrates the power of sin.
 - 1. To disguise itself (vv. 10-11; cf. Heb. 3:13)
 - 2. To reclaim the saved (vv. 13, 23).
- C. This passage also illustrates God's two principles about pardon.

Discussion:

I. The Need for Pardon

- A. Simon and all the Samaritans needed pardon from sin.
- B. The need for pardon is universal because sin is universal (Rom. 3:23)
 - 1. Sin is terrible because of:
 - a. What it is (1 John 3:4)
 - b. What it does (Is. 59:1-2)
 - c. What it pays (Rom. 6:23)
 - 2. Sin against God cannot be pardoned by man (Luke 5:21, 24)
 - 3. Sin robs one of heaven (Rev. 21:27; 2 Pet. 3:14).
- C. Without pardon life would be so hard and dreary.

II. The Laws of Pardon

- A. The law for Alien Sinner – those who have never been Christians (vv. 12, 13)
 - 1. The great commission (Mark 16:15-16)
 - 2. The conversions of Acts.
 - 3. Does not include prayer (cf. Saul - Acts 9:11; Acts 22:16).
- B. The law for erring Christians
 - 1. Involves repentance and prayer (Acts 8:22)
 - 2. Involves confession.
 - a. To God (1 John 1:9; 2:1)
 - b. To other injured parties (Jas . 5:16; Lk. 17:3,4; Matt. 5:23-24)
 - c. Not all sins need to be publicly confessed.
 - (1) Secret sins.
 - (2) Private sins best kept private (cf. Matt. 18:15-17)
 - (3) Public confession often abused by preachers to get responses.

Conclusion:

- A. Do you need pardon?
 - 1. If an alien sinner it is repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38)
 - 2. If an erring Christian it is repent and pray (Acts 8:22)
- B. Why remain in your sins any longer?