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)
   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.
   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?