

Acts 2:14, 22-36

“Lord and Christ”

May 22, 2016

In my study of this text, there were some who could not accept that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. They saw the miracles, signs and wonders performed by Jesus Christ and they still could not accept that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. They heard His wisdom and said that it sounded like God talking to them and they still could not accept that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Today we have confirmed two of our youth who have confessed that Jesus Christ is our Lord and have committed themselves to the Christian faith that they were baptized into.

I am realistic enough to know that they and we can drift from that commitment that we have made to our Lord Jesus Christ. The devil, the world and our sinful nature have a way of distracting us from our commitment to the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so that we drift away from Him. It could be that we are too focused upon the need for money or that we have too much money and the blessings money brings distracts us from our Savior. It could be that we desire to fulfill ourselves and this distracts us from our relationship with our God. For any of us our jobs can consume us as we seek fulfillment in our jobs. Body builders can be distracted by their bodies. I could go on and on about the distractions that take our eyes away from Jesus.

In our text, we find a quote from King David. This quote points out that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is the Messiah. In the Old Testament God had told us that the Messiah was coming. God spoke through King David and the prophets. There are around three hundred prophecies made by King David and the prophets. God described in detail through them what to expect from this coming Messiah and what would happen while He walked this earth. Of course that is history and some don't listen to history and repeat the mistakes of history over and over again. They pay a price for ignoring history and so do we when we ignore that Savior. The price we pay for drifting from Him is that we may lose the security of our faith and even the hope of eternity.

Jesus said it in John 14:6 when He said; "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me." The only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ paying for our sins on the Cross at Calvary. We cannot pay for them ourselves because God has told us in His Word that He will not accept our sacrifices, our good works or anything else as payment for entrance into heaven. He is God, the Creator, and we must live by the path to heaven that He has established through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In our text we are told that when Jesus died, His body did not see decay. We know that He was dead because when they pierced His side with the spear, the blood had separated already. Likewise the Roman soldiers were responsible and

would not have allowed any person to come down off the cross alive. They truly did not care about human suffering and probably enjoyed inflicting it upon the criminals. There are people who enjoy inflicting suffering. Look at ISIS when they behead people, burn people alive in cages and slowly drop them into vats of acid to dissolve them. Normal people don't inflict such horrors upon others.

This is the second sermon of the Day of Pentecost reading. The Day of Pentecost is the fulfillment of a promise made by the Old Testament Prophecies and by Jesus who said that the Holy Spirit would come upon God's people. The Holy Spirit came to call us to faith and encourage us to keep the faith. The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of the Bible. The Holy Spirit inspired all of those who share the Gospel message with the world darkened by sin and unbelief.

Trials and temptations come our way all of the time and they cause us to drift from our relationship with our God. Over the years I have discovered that when I sing in my mind "Jesus Loves Me" and recite the Word of God in my mind, it distracts me from the temptations of the devil, the world and our sinful nature. We still find ourselves giving into the temptations, but we also find it easier to keep the faith. When Jesus Christ is my Lord I don't have to worry about what others think about me because I have Jesus Christ on my side. When I face sickness and other trials, I know that Jesus Christ is beside me and loves me. We still have to face the trials, but it is easier with Jesus Christ beside us. Amen.