

Lesson III.

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH January 17, 1909

Acts 2 : 32-42. Study Acts 2 : 22-47—Memory Verses, 32, 33.

Golden Text—They continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.—Acts 2 : 42.

32 This Je'sus hath God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34 For Da'vid is not ascended into the heavens : but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

36 Therefore let all the house of Is'rael know assuredly, that God hath made that same Je'sus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Pe'ter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do ?

38 Then Pe'ter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Je'sus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized : and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Peter went on speaking to the crowds of people ; and he told them how Jesus had worked wonderful miracles among them, which showed that God had really sent Him, and how they, who were His own people, instead of welcoming Him, had cruelly put Him to death.

" But He is not dead now ! " Peter went on to say, with a glad voice, " for we, His apostles, have seen Him since He rose from the dead, as the scriptures promised He would rise. And He has now gone up to reign in glory with God in heaven ; and, because He has left us, He has sent us this Holy Spirit, whose power you have just seen, to be with us as a Guide and Helper. So now, you and all the children of Israel may surely know that this same Jesus whom you crucified, is the Saviour of the world, for whom you and your fathers

have been looking so long and so earnestly."

When the people heard these words, they were filled with sorrow for what they had done to Jesus, and said to Peter and the other disciples, " Men and brethren, what shall we do ? "

Peter answered them, " Repent of your sins, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, that you may be forgiven ; then the Holy Spirit shall be given to you also, for God has promised to send Him to you and to your children, and to all whom the Lord our God shall call."

Great numbers who heard Peter speak, gladly believed on the Lord Jesus, and about three thousand persons were baptized that same day. These all came and met together with the apostles and other followers of Jesus ; and they learned of them