

Analysis of Acts 2:38 and 3:19 by Don Martin

<p><i>These two verses read:</i> Acts 3:28 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"</p> <p>Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(All Bible references are from the New King James Version)</p>		
<p>Repentance (metaneo) is a compound word. W. E. Vine comments, "Meta, after, implying change, noeo, to perceive; nous, the mind...." (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words). The lost must change their mind and will to do what God requires. Repentance, used in the context of salvation and when fully illustrated, is brought about by godly sorrow, involves a change of will, and leads to restoration of life (2 Cor. 7:9, Matt. 21:29, 2 Cor. 7:11).</p>	<p>2 Cor 9 "Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing."</p>	<p>Matt 21:29 "He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went.</p>	<p>2 Cor 7:11 "For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."</p>
<p>"And be baptized..." is in the passive voice indicating baptism is something that was to be administered to them. Water baptism (the baptism of the Great Commission) is essential (Rom. 6:3-5, Col. 2:12). Peter said "every one of you." Repentance and baptism are universal and apply to all responsible individuals.</p>	<p>Romans 6:3-4 "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."</p>	<p>Romans 6:5 "For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection"</p>	<p>Colossians 2:12 "buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."</p>

An Analysis of Acts 2:38 and 3:19

"Repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ..." suggests Jesus' authority (Col. 3:17). Jesus had taught repentance and baptism (Luke. 24:47; Mk. 16:16). Hence, these requirements are by his authority or in his name. Notice how repentance and baptism are joined ("and," kai).

Col 3:17 "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"

Luke 24:47 "'and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Mark 16:16 "'He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

"For the remission of sins...." This expression (eis aphenin ton amartion) states one purpose of baptism when accompanied by repentance. Jesus shed his blood for the remission of sin (Matt. 26:28). Therefore, it is in water baptism preceded by repentance that remission is experienced (see argument on "for" at the close of this material, (1 Peter 3:21, Acts 22:16).

Matt 26:28 "'For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"

1 Peter 3:21 "There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ"

Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

"...And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." The gift of the Holy Spirit is the second stated benefit of repentance and baptism. The gift of the Holy Spirit is not miraculous because after some of the audience was baptized, only the apostles continued to perform miracles (2:43, 4:14-16, 33, 5:12). It was not until the laying on of the apostles hands that others performed miracles (6:6-8, cp. 8:16-19). The gift of the Spirit involved the Abrahamic fulfillment to the Jews and then to the Gentiles (Acts 2). "*That the blessing of Abraham, "* Paul later wrote, "*might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith"* (Gal. 3:14). The gift of the Spirit is universal and for all who "repent and are baptized" (vs. 39).

Acts 2:43 "Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles" **Acts 6:6-8** "whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. 8And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people."

Acts 4:14-16 "And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16saying, 'What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it"

Acts 14:33 "And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all" **Acts 5:12** "And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. **Acts 2:39** "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

An examination of Acts 2:38 and 3:19 (part of Peter's second recorded sermon, Acts 3:11-4:1). Peter consistently enjoins repentance, "Repent ye...." He adds, "therefore" (oun). They should have repented because ("therefore") they had murdered Jesus, whom Peter presented as the Messiah (3:14-18).

Acts 3:14-15 "'But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15'and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

Acts 3:16 "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Acts 3:17-18 "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18'But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled."

"...and be converted...." This expression (kai epistrepasate) is literally translated "and turn" (ASV). The corresponding portion of Acts 2:38 says, "...be baptized...." It is in baptism that one officially "turns" to God (Rom. 6:3 ff, Acts 26:17-18). Remission of sins is associated with the turning (Acts 26:18, 2:38, 3:19). There are certain changes that have already occurred in the person's life before baptism. (Faith and repentance bring about certain changes, attitudinal and behavioural, Acts 2:36, 37, 38). However, it is in water baptism that the old man is put off and the new man is put on (Rom. 6).

Acts 26:17-18 'I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

Acts 2:36-37 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

Romans 6:6 "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."

"...that your sins may be blotted out...." In Acts 2:38 Peter said, "for the remission of sins (eis aphasis ton amartion). Here (3:19) Peter said, "that your sins may be blotted out..." (pros to exaleiphthenai). "Remission" (aphesis) means to release; "blotted out" (exaleipho) means to smear or wash completely (W. E. Vine). Hence, Saul was told, "...arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins..." (Acts 22:16). To "blot out" means God does not make a remembrance of our sins (cp. Heb. 8:8-13 and 10:1-3).

Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Hebrews 10:1 "For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

Hebrews 10:2-3 "2For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year"

"...when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." This expression is parallel to "the gift of the Holy Spirit" in Acts 2:38. "Refreshing" (anapsuxeos) suggests relief. What a beautiful description of salvation in general.

We read regarding some in the large audience of Acts 2, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (vs. 41). Luke (the believed writer of Acts) tells us regarding some who heard Peter's second sermon: **"Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand"** (4:4). These two wonderful sermons resulted in salvation and in persecution as well (4:5 ff). Some accept the word (those with good hearts); some reject the word.