

## A LIFE CHANGING COMMAND

Acts 3:19

**Introduction:** Peter and John had just healed a lame man - Discuss..

- Crowds followed them and Peter made it clear who had healed
- Peter got straight to the point - "**a change in life was needed.**"
- The change the people needed that day is still needed today:

**Text:** *"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."*

### I. A COMMAND TO CHANGE

1. **"Repent"** - To change one's mind
2. **"Convert"** - To turn around
  - The demoniac became sane and immediately put on clothes
  - The prodigal son changed his mind, turned around and went home.
3. The Holy Spirit enables this to happen, but how, nobody can explain:
  - salt water fish are not salty - cattle eat grass and there is milk and beef - sheep eat grass also, but there is mutton and wool - a tree branch into bitter water made it sweet - water came out of a rock when it was struck - **HOW?**
4. Except one repents and is converted all "worship" is vain (then - now).

### II. THEIR NEED FOR A CHANGE

1. **"Therefore..."** Peter had just preached a sermon to them about Jesus and how their sins had nailed Him to the cross.
2. Sin was and still is an insult to God - What has God ever done to man that man should treat God and God's only begotten Son by sinning?
3. Instead of choosing God's Son - Men then and now choose their sins.
4. God's Son, whom men refuse is full of love and could make them right with God, the Father. (Stands outside the heart's door and knocks)

5. When one has heard about Jesus, he/she then sins against the "*light.*"

### III. THE RESULTS OF THE CHANGE

1. One's sins are "*blotted out*" - deleted - completely, totally, forever.
2. The blood of Jesus is the only thing that will remove man's sins.
3. There is no forgiveness of sin without *repentance and conversion.*

### IV. BENEFITS OF THE CHANGE

1. Immediate peace with God:
  - as a broken bone has healed and the pain is gone leaving relief.
  - as one released from a hospital after a lengthy stay.
  - as sight has been restored.
  - as a prisoner released after years in prison
2. Revival comes - individually - within the church
3. When Jesus comes for His Church, the "*converted*" will go with Him.
4. At judgment time, the "*converted*" will stand before Jesus fully accepted.

### CONCLUSION

1. The message Peter preached then and the command he gave to those who heard him is for those today in this room and throughout the rest of our world.
2. Nothing has changed - people are still the same - sin is still the same -
  - the blood of Jesus is still the same - the way to heaven is still the same - **the message of salvation is still the same: "*Repent and be converted...*"** - the destination of those who refuse to repent and be converted is still the same.

**THE CHOICE IS STILL THE SAME - YOURS**