

Dear Friend,

Act 2:38-41 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 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.

This is the very first sermon Peter preached after the day of Pentecost when the 120 disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit in the upper room. This was a powerful message resulting in more than 3,000 souls being saved. What did Peter mean by the phrase this "untoward" generation? The Greek word translated "untoward" is: **G4646 skolios** - *warped*, that is, *winding*; figuratively *perverse*: - **crooked, a bending, froward, untoward.**

Most people are familiar with a spinal condition known as **scoliosis** which the dictionary defines as – "abnormal lateral curvature of the spine." It is not as God originally intended for the spine of man. It has become twisted and warped into a lesser condition. It affects how a person walks and is often accompanied with lifelong pain.

In a dream I saw again a teaching I did at the Young Adults Conference this year. In one of the teachings titled "The Mechanism of Righteousness," I had a young man wear a Halloween mask depicting how far man fell when Adam sinned. Adam did not stay the same after he sinned. He was no longer a creature made in the image of God. His nature changed. Adam still bore some resemblance to God, but his nature had been twisted and warped by sin. Every person born of Adam down through the generations was born with that same spirit of sin and death within them. They were all born with scoliosis of the spirit ... something bent, twisted, warped ... which affected how they walked, and which caused them difficulty and pain all of their life.

After the dream I knew the Holy Spirit was referring not only to that generation of Jews that Peter was preaching to, but to all mankind ... to all the sons of Adam ... to the whole species of Adam ... to the "generation" of Adam. The generation of Adam is an "untoward" generation, a species that has been twisted and warped by sin, that no longer has the capacity to walk uprightly before God. There is only one hope ... to die to the species of Adam and be reborn as a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Christ died in place of the whole species of Adam. When you are baptized into Christ, you are baptized into His death. You die to the species of Adam. This is what is represented when you are baptized in water. When you go under the water, it is a type of the grave, and you are declaring you are dead to the species of Adam. When you are raised up out of the water, that is a type of being resurrected to new life, where Jesus has become your Adam and His spiritual LIFE now flows through you instead of the fallen nature of the first man Adam. In Christ, you died to sin, you were raised to newness of life.

Rom 6:1-4 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

It is important to make note that the scripture says that the record given us in the book of Acts regarding Peter's sermon is very abbreviated.

Act 2:40-41 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.

What causes three thousand men to all want to be baptized in a single day, the same day they first hear the gospel of Jesus Christ? Peter's "other words" caused an "urgency" in them to be "saved" TODAY ... and to be "baptized" into Christ TODAY ... not later ... TODAY!

I am convinced it is the same urgency that would cause a young mother, in a desperate effort to save her infant's life, to toss her beloved child out of the third story window of a burning building. She is hoping a fireman will catch the child and save it. Death is certain for the child if she waits. She must make the decision now. Normally, to throw a child out of a third story window would mean certain death for the child. But in this case, such a desperate and urgent act is the only hope for the child to be saved. So it is with every person born on earth. They are part of a lost species, a twisted, bent, warped generation where eternal damnation is certain. There is only one way to escape certain death, and that is to do what Peter said,

Act 2:38-41 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 Ghost.

I see clearly there is an urgency coming back in the words of those who are anointed by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel in these last days. The fear of God, the reality of eternal hell, and the only hope of salvation through Jesus Christ will be preached with the anointing of fire once again. Men will cry out to God in repentance, desiring to be saved from this lost generation and be baptized into Christ ... TODAY! Father ... in the name of Jesus, give us the anointing of the Holy Ghost and fire again. Touch our lips with a burning coal from Your altar once more.

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY