

“Refreshing Repentance”

Acts 3:19-26

1. Repent. v.19

- What does it mean to repent? Gk. word means lit. To change one’s mind.
- Confession is agreeing with God about what is true. We use ‘confession’ in 2 senses:
 - Proclamation of truth. E.g., Westminster Confession; Belgic Confession
 - Acknowledgement of sin: Naming what is true about my sin.
- Change of mind about reality. E.g., Paul’s conversion testimony. Acts 26:12-18, esp. v.18

2. Return. v.19 “and turn again”

- Turn again – ‘re-turn’ Indicates both a change of direction and a change of action.
- To turn *from* something *and to* something.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9: *and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God*
- Jesus to Peter. Luke 22:31-32

- “that your sins may be blotted out” to cancel a debt.
- Washed over. Wiped away. Removed. → JUSTIFICATION

3. Refreshing. v.20 “times of refreshing”

- Meaning = breathing space, cooling, relaxation, relief; closely associated with revive, refresh
- “The phrase indicates the refreshing relief of the eschatological salvation promised to Israel.”
- The *means* (how) of this refreshing: from the presence of the Lord.
- The frequency (often) of this refreshing: times of refreshing (plural).

We can also experience this ‘refreshing’ in relationship with other believers...:

- 2 Timothy 1:16 (Paul speaking of Onesiphorus): “...for he often refreshed me...”
- Romans 15:32: “...so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.”

4. Restoring. v.21

- The “restoration of all things.” Speaking of the 2nd coming.
- Acts 3:1f. A man lame from birth.... pointing forward to a cosmic restoration.

→ Repetitive foretastes of the coming restoration. → SANCTIFICATION

Psalm 36:7-9:

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

John 7:37-39:

³⁷On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.