

Simon the Sorcerer

Acts 8:8-24

Introduction:

- A. Simon's case teaches.
 - 1. The power of sin. (vs. 10,11,23).
 - 2. The power of gospel preaching.
 - a. Preached Christ. (v. 5).
 - b. Preached kingdom. (v. 12).
 - c. Preached word of God. (v. 14).
- B. Simon's case illustrated pardon for two classes of sinners:

Discussion:

I. Unbaptized Sinners. (v. 13).

- A. In terrible condition because of:
 - 1. What sin is. (1 John 3:4).
 - a. Law of God who made us. (Acts 17:24-28).
 - b. Law of God who loves us (Rom. 5:8).
 - c. Law of God who is longsuffering to us. (2 Pet. 3:9,10).
 - 2. What sin does.
 - a. Separates from God. (Is. 59:2).
 - b. Deceives and hardens (Heb. 3:13).
 - c. Spreads like cancer. (2 Tim. 2:17).
 - d. Brings death. (Rom. 6:23).
 - e. Robs one of heaven. (Rev. 21:27; 2 Pet. 3:14).
- B. In a position to be forgiven, if:
 - 1. Obey terms of gospel. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16).
 - 2. Do as Simon did. (Acts 8:12,13).

II. Baptized Sinners. (vs. 21-23).

- A. In worse condition than other. (2 Pet. 2:20-22).
 - 1. Fallen from grace. (Gal. 5:4; Heb. 10:29).
 - 2. Causes way of truth to be blasphemed. (2 Pet. 2:2).
 - 3. Harder to reach than before.
- B. In a position to be forgiven, if:
 - 1. Will be converted. (Jas. 5:19,20).
 - 2. Will repent and pray for forgiveness. (Acts 8:22; 2 Cor. 7:9-10).
 - 3. Will confess his sins rather than deny.
 - a. To God through Christ. (1 John 1:9; 2:1).
 - b. To any others affected by his sins. (Jas. 5:16; cf. Luke 17:3,4).

Conclusion:

- A. What about your sins?
 - 1. Useless to deny them.
 - 2. Useless to brood over them.
 - 3. Useless to ignore them.
- B. Why not get forgiveness?
 - 1. If unbaptized: Repent, Confess and be baptized.
 - 2. If baptized: Repent, confess, pray.