



"How the Church Promoted the Preeminence of Christ–Pt. 2"

In Acts 3:1-4:31, there are 3 commitments to the preeminence of Christ that ensure Christ is not replaced in our approach to the Christian life:

I. Exalting Christ's Supreme Power–3:1-12

II. Recognizing Christ's Promised Redemption–3:13-26

The name of Jesus is not a magical formula nor an absolute power that [automatically accomplishes the desire of those who utter it]. 'It is, in fact, a dynamic, personal symbol of Jesus' continuing presence and power on earth. Although ascended to heaven awaiting...a return to earth at "the time of universal restoration" (3:21), Jesus is not trapped within a fixed spatio-temporal system. Far from being an absentee landlord until his return, he remains in the interim an active helper and savior of God's people, [even supplying] God's [restorative power through the apostles] to the poor and the lame just as he did before his departure.' It was the exalted Lord Jesus who healed him, but the name of Jesus continues to be the focus of Peter's thinking because he wants to reinforce his claim that the salvation promised by Joel and other prophets (cf. Joel 2:32 in Acts 2:21) is only for those who call upon that name (cf. Acts 2:38). (1)

[He's prescribing an] act of turning away from a [manner] of life that is characterized by disobedience and ignorance and turning to a new way of life controlled by faith and obedience to God. The Jews of Jerusalem [despite participating in religious activity and thus considering themselves righteous] are going in the wrong direction and need a radical change of direction—in terms of what they believe about Jesus, what they think about his death, and what they assume about the significance of his life and death for their lives. (2)

So in Acts 3:19-21, we actually have...a definition of the kingdom. As to content, it will bring the times of restoration of all things...As to time, it will come when God shall send Jesus Christ back from his present session in heaven. And as to its conditionality, its coming is contingent upon the repentance and conversion of Israel. (3)

Jn 17:11-12; Jer 31:17; Rom 2:4; Is 35:5-6; Zech 12:10; 2 Pet 3:9;
Rom 11:33; Lev 26:40-42; Acts 1:6; Matt 19:28; 1 Cor. 15:3-6

1 David G. Peterson, *The Acts of the Apostles*, PNTC, 176–177.

2 Eckard J. Schnabel, *ZECNT-Acts*, 214.

3 Alva J. McClain, *The Greatness of the Kingdom*, 406.