

Bible Studies for Life: September 15

Purpose Restored • Acts 3:14-26

By Bobby McKay



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Many in our churches try to live the Christian life without a connection to Christ. It is impossible. Christ provides and maintains the restoration possible for each of us to be godly and with purpose. Faith is essential in the maturation process of a believer. While we have all experienced the frustration of losing electricity, we should be as concerned with our sin problem and the consequential results of not having an

intimate relationship with Jesus.

Acts 3:14-18

Do you know why churches have problems? They have made it about themselves and not Jesus. I know that is an overly simplified suggestion, but consider it. When we begin to put our opinions and preferences on equal footing with the Scriptures, we are bound for disaster. In the verses preceding this passage, God miraculously used Peter to heal a lame man. Peter quickly gave God the credit and used the miracle as a gateway to talk about Jesus and the salvation He provides. A miracle in Scripture is never solely about the miracle. The miracle serves a purpose for a more incredible view of God and a broader theology regarding faith and obedience.

Acts 3:19-21

No one enjoys being lost in an unfamiliar city or venturing in the wrong direction on the interstate. Spiritually, without a relationship, we are lost and without hope! Repentance is essential in salvation. With repentance, you are not only turning from your sinful lifestyle but also turning to Jesus. Repentance reveals an awareness of your need for God's forgiveness. After becoming a Christian, we are still called to be diligent in repenting. How often should you repent? As frequently as you sin and ask God for forgiveness. In His grace, God will forgive. As you spiritually mature, you will notice your sinful patterns and choices and seek God's help in resisting temptation.

Acts 3:22-26

Peter reminded his audience that they had been blessed throughout their history with some fantastic prophets. The prophets had been faithful and true in sharing the message of God. However, there came a time when they rejected Christ, the One and Only Son of God. It is one thing to not like a preacher. It is a tragic thing to refuse the Messiah. There is

not a prophet in the past or a pastor in the present that can save you. Only Jesus can bring us back to God. Losing your electricity in an ice storm is frustrating, but losing your soul is eternal. The people in Jesus' day had no concept of electricity, but those who believed in Him understood what power was! Is the restorative, redemptive power of Jesus evident in your life?

McKay is pastor of New Liberty Baptist Church, Morton.