

Evangelism and the Resurrection of Christ

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Introduction: How did the early church preach the gospel to the whole world?

- A. The answer is an important one because evangelism is important to the Lord and thus His followers.
 - 1. Jesus planned to lay His life down and then take it up again for the salvation of men! **(Jn 10:17-18)**
 - 2. Jesus knew that those men who are saved must take the message to others for His death to have its fullest effect. **(Mt 9:36-37)**
- B. Jesus gave a great commission that commanded the whole world be told about these events. **(Lk 24:46-48)**
 - 1. Every sermon in the book of Acts centered on the proof of Jesus' resurrection and the implications of His death. **(Acts 2:32, 36; 3:14-15,18-19)**
 - 2. Let us re-examine our concepts of evangelism and learn from the actions (Acts!) of the apostles in the New Testament.

I. It is a universally understandable message

- A. The account of a man who died and then who was raised from the dead would get the attention of men.
 - 1. Our experience tells us that once a man dies that he does not return.
 - 2. The account of Christ becomes very interesting when you consider that He predicted His own resurrection. **(Jn 2:18-22; Mt 12:39-40)**
 - 3. The account becomes more interesting when these claims are widely discussed even to the point of preparation of His powerful enemies. **(Mt 27:63-66)**
- B. The message of life after death strikes at the very heart of men.
 - 1. Men of all ages have looked at death with fear and questions.
 - 2. Our generation *is no different!* (Ex. Embraced by the light.)
 - 3. Jesus authoritatively claimed to have the power to control life and death and the answer to our true existence. **(Jn 11:24-26; 40-44)**

II. It has powerful evidence that is sufficient to convince all men

- A. God chose men who would be eyewitnesses of the raised Christ. **(Acts 1:21-22; 10:39-42)**
 - 1. There is great power in eyewitness testimony. We must decide if these witnesses are true or false.
 - a. Is the person giving testimony in a position to know the facts? **(1 Jn 1:1-3)**
 - b. Does he have an ulterior motive in telling his account? **(1 Cor 15:30-32)**
 - c. Is this person of good character? Is he reliable?
 - d. Are there other witnesses and do they agree? **(1 Cor 15:6)**
 - 2. There is great power in fulfilled prophecy. **(Psa 22:1)**
 - a. The words of Christ are recorded.
 - b. The words and actions of His enemies are recorded. **(Psa 22:6-8, 18)**

- c. The details of crucifixion are recorded. (**Psa 22:14-17**)
 - d. How can these things be written over a 1000 years before the event and even before the act of crucifixion was even invented?
 - 3. There is great power in the miracles that accompanied the witnesses. (**Acts 2:32-33; 4:33**)
 - B. Even though this evidence is powerful, it must be received in order to have power in us. (**2 Thess 1:9-10; 1 Thess 2:13**)
 - 1. Here is where each man must act as a juror in a courtroom. What's your verdict?
 - 2. Can you as a Christian present the evidence to convince another?
- III. It contains powerful implications that changes those who believe**
- A. Jesus is the Son of God. (**Rom 1:3-4**)
 - 1. Why is this so? Did not God raise others from the dead?
 - 2. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Did God raise an imposter?
 - B. The judgment of all men is a certainty. (**Acts 17:30-31**)
 - 1. The High priest who condemned Him will see a terrifying event. (**Mt 26:64; Mk 14:62**)
 - 2. Can you imagine what judgment day will be like?
 - 3. Do you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead? Do you really?
 - C. The glorious resurrection and reunion of the righteous is also certain.
 - 1. Does this describe you? (**2 Cor 4:13-14**)
 - 2. When it is certain to us our entire outlook on life is changed. (**Phil 3:10**)
 - D. I serve a living Lord who cares for me who now is at the right hand of the almighty God. (**Heb 7:16**)
 - 1. I know that He knows and cares. (**Heb 4:14-16**)
 - 2. Do you have the powerful knowledge that you will never be alone! (**Jn 16:32-33**)
- IV. It will produce the same results at any time in history**
- A. It will cause those who really believe to share this message with others. (**2 Cor 4:13-14; 5:14-15**)
 - 1. It is natural to want to talk about that which has changed our life and give us our daily motivation!
 - 2. The purpose and strength found in the Christian with such a solid hope will open up hearts to seek these truths. Is this person you?
 - 3. Have we strayed from boldly teaching this powerful message?
 - B. Jesus knew that this message and this message alone would produce the results He desired. (**Jn 6:44-45**)
 - 1. How would you go about teaching that message today?
 - 2. Most people do not understand the nature of a Biblical faith nor the evidence that produces it. (**1 Pt 3:15**)
- Conclusion:** Can a dead man live? (**Rom 6:2; Col 2:20-21**)
- A. It is not easy to let the power of God remain in us each day.
 - B. What does His resurrection mean to you?