

“Why We Preach Christ”
Acts 2:22-36
3-27-16 Sun AM

Let me share thoughts this morning on the first Christian sermon preached- It was all about Jesus and why we preach Jesus as the Christ the Messiah.

I. The Preparation of the Sermon (2:1-21). (quick overview)

(vs.1-3) We see the Disciples gathered in upper room to wait for the promise of the coming of the Spirit to indwell them 50 days after Passover or the Feast of Weeks, and of course, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(v.4) The disciples were indwelt and filled with the Spirit and began to speak in known languages they did not know as the Spirit gave them utterance. God indwells the believer and baptizes him into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). Being filled is being under the Spirit's control (fullness of the Spirit).

This speaks of first-fruits of the believer's inheritance and a full harvest to follow.

(vs.5-13) Those gathered from other countries heard in their own language and dialect.

(v. 12) They asked, "What does this mean?"

(vs. 14-21) Peter explains that this is a partial fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32 when God would pour out his Spirit and a sign he was turning from the Jews to the Church. Fulfillment will be in the millennium. The ability to speak in other known languages not known by the speaker was a "sign gift."

I. The Preparation of the Sermon (2:1-21).

II. The Proclamation of the Sermon (vs. 22-36).

Peter then gets into the main section of his sermon. Peter gave them four infallible proofs that Jesus was the Messiah: We preach Christ because He is the...

1. Recognized Messiah (2:22).

1. Jesus had affirmed his messiah ship by miracles, there was no excuse for rejecting Christ. They saw him do these miracles. The fact of who rejected him proves he was the true Messiah.

2. The New Testament records 36 in all in 3 years and 6 months. Miracles describe the supernatural work while wonder describe the marvel or reaction to the work. Signs point to the purpose- spiritual truth and authentication of the message and the messenger. In acts, "signs" is always mentioned with wonders.

3. He fulfilled the criteria for the messiah- He was of the tribe of Judah and of the family of David. He was born of a virgin and was born at Bethlehem. He was called out of Egypt and from Nazareth. Peter shares several OT prophecies fulfilled.

4. We know that Jesus existed and did what He said He did- Historically there is no reason to deny Him.

1. Recognized Messiah.

2. Rejected Messiah (2:23).

1. God's sovereignty (v. 23a).

a. The death of Christ was ordained by God in eternity past. He was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8). He was delivered to death because God planned and ordained it.

b. Not that God reacted to man's sin and fall, but he knew it all. Foreknowledge? used in I Peter 1:2, Acts 15:18; Rom 8:28. What He has purposed will come to pass, it's called foreordination.

2. Man's guilt (v.23b).

a. God's foreknowledge does not remove man's actions and the guilt of those actions.

b. The worst crime ever committed by human hands, yet he asked the Father to forgive them.

1. Recognized Messiah.

2. Rejected Messiah.

3. Resurrected Messiah (2:24-32).

1. Man says it is impossible! It defies natural law; it is contrary to nature, it never happened. That's right, it was a miracle!

2. God says it was impossible death could hold Him! It was impossible for God to leave His Son in the tomb. **Why?**

a. *Divine person*- He was sinless. Therefore death had no victory over Him. "The wages of sin is death." Jesus died because he was made sin for us. He paid the price and discharged the debt. So it was impossible to be held by death.

b. *Divine power*- Death could not hold him because he was the resurrection and the life.

c. *Divine promise*- Death could not hold him because Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

d. *Divine purpose*- God intended we be with him in heaven. To do that Christ had to come out of the grave.

3. The ramifications of the Resurrection:

Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus is a true prophet.

God's redemptive plan is complete and finished.

Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us.
The Gospel is true.
The believer's bodily resurrection is possible.
Satan is defeated and rendered inoperative.
Jesus is in heaven doing his priestly ministry.
Our Lord and Savior is alive!

- 1. Recognized Messiah.**
- 2. Rejected Messiah.**
- 3. Resurrected Messiah.**
- 4. Received Messiah (vs. 33-36).**

Jesus was exalted to the place of honor, glory, and power at the right hand of God performing his high priestly ministry of intercession..

Peter says what they had just seen resulted from God's promise to send the Spirit to bring in the church age or messianic age.

Christ having completed the plan of redemption, God now sent the Holy Spirit as promised and gave birth to the church.

Con:

Peter provided overwhelming evidence that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah who came to deliver his people from sin.

That's why we preach Christ!!! Because Jesus is the Messiah!

Two questions in the text v. 12 and v.37:

1. What does this mean? Jesus is the Lord and Christ (Messiah).
2. What shall we do? Repent and believe!