

PETER'S SERMON ON THE RESURRECTION

Acts 2:22-36

Introduction: Peter's sermon was preached after a tremendous event had taken place. The Holy Spirit had been poured out and filled every believer and caused them to speak in tongues, thus confounding the multitude that witnessed the event.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit had been sent according to God's promise but was conditional upon how Jesus Christ fulfilled His mission to redeem mankind. (*Acts 2:32-33*).

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit, witnessed by devout Jews from every nation, was proof that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead.

I. THE RESURRECTION WAS ESSENTIAL TO VINDICATION (*Acts 2:22*)

1. Peter states that God was satisfied with the work Jesus had done by the life that He had lived and by the work He had done.
2. The Father and Son had worked together to create the universe and mankind but death, darkness and disorder threw the world out of harmony with God.
3. The Father and Son worked together to reconcile the world back to God. Sin had entered through God's first man, therefore salvation would enter through God's second Man, Jesus Christ.
4. For this purpose Jesus came. Starting like the first man (Adam), with a perfect life, direct fellowship with God, the right to will and the power to will towards God.
- Unlike the first man, Jesus started in a world tainted and stained with sin and under the dominion of Satan. In such a world Jesus must live as none other had, unspoiled holiness, unwavering obedience and unceasing victory. A total life lived in the will of God.
5. Three times God spoke aloud and opened heaven for all to hear that He was pleased with Jesus. The world didn't give Jesus any honor and man rejected Him. The Father needed to let the world know that Jesus finished His work satisfactorily....HOW TO DO IT?

II. THE RESURRECTION WAS A CONSUMMATED VICTORY (*Acts 2:23*)

1. God obligated Himself to deal with sin and all its consequences upon man.
2. Jesus was God's potential Savior. However, if the guilt, penalty and judgment of sin borne by man were to be exchanged for Jesus' holiness, victories and obedience, Jesus was going to have to take guilty man's place and bear all consequences of man's sin.
3. Jesus had been the perfect man. He had been victorious in all the battles in His life. But now what? Buried in a tomb with no way out. Has Jesus been conquered at last? Has the creator of the world now become entombed in His own creation?

4. Jesus said that He would lay down His life but would take it up again. (*John 10:17-18; 1 Corinthians 14:55-57*) Up from the grave He arose!
5. All the victories of Jesus, His human life, the crucifixion were merged into the victory over the grave. A perfect, powerful, permanent victory over hell, sin, death and Satan.

III. THE RESURRECTION GOT THE DIVINE SEAL

1. God showed His divine approval of the perfect work of Jesus by raising Him from the grave.
 - When Jesus cried "...*it is finished!*..." It was a cry of victory over death for Jesus knew that He had succeeded in restoring man to God and that resurrection was automatic.
Why/How did Jesus know that?
2. Three times the Father had already approved publicly the perfect works of Jesus. Jesus' death on the cross as a sacrifice for the sin of man could not be passed by. The Father could now bring an end to the redemptive work He and the Son had started. Jesus could now return to His former place in Heaven.
3. The resurrection of Jesus was the Father's "**AMEN!**" to all that Jesus had accomplished for man's redemption.

IV. THE RESURRECTION IS A SURE PLEDGE (*Matthew 28:5-6; John 20:27*)

1. Jesus was resurrected with the same body which He had during His earthly ministry.
 - Jesus lived in the same body, died in the same body, was buried in the same body, resurrected in the same body, appeared to His followers in the same body, ascended to heaven in the same body, and now sits on His throne, in heaven, in the same body, but a "glorified" body.
2. The body of Jesus was the same, yet it had become "glorified," incorruptible, mighty, spiritual, a body fit for heaven. Earthly limitations removed, the chains of the flesh broken.
3. The resurrection of Jesus is God's pledge of the same resurrection for the believer.
1 Corinthians 15:20-24; 49; Philippians 3:20-21
4. To the believer the resurrection of Jesus means the power of Satan over man's life is ended. The life of sin, death, darkness and disorder has ended and a life of righteousness, light and liberty is now possible.
5. All the old creation ended at the cross and is buried in a tomb. The former relations re ended and all is now new. Jesus is the mediator of the new life.

CONCLUSION:

1. God created the universe for man, but man spoiled all that God had given him.
2. God undertook to redeem man, making it possible for man and God to be together once again and have that lost fellowship.
3. In human flesh, called Jesus, God became man's sacrifice and on the cross removed all barriers between God and man and bound the power of Satan.
4. By being victorious over the grave, God has removed the sting of death and can now give eternal life to those of His choosing. God chooses to offer eternal life to "whosoever believeth."
5. What have you done about God's invitation to become one of His heavenly family?