

20220807 – PETER PREACHES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Sunday AM – Acts 2:14-41

I. PETER STARTS PREACHING (vs. 14-21)

- A. He was a preacher of the Gospel
 - 1. 1 COR. 1:18 – “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”
 - 2. There was no personal agenda, no fame or glory sought for himself
 - a. Pastor Gray did not like flowery introductions
 - b. He trained men for ministry
 - c. Berean started 28 churches in the continental US
 - d. And he just wanted someone to say, “Come and preach!”
 - 3. 1 COR. 1:21 – “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
 - a. Preaching has received a bad name over the years
 - b. Because often one who is called a “pastor” never PREACHES
 - c. Preaching is not teaching
 - d. Preaching is discourse designed to demand a decision
 - i. It would be foolishness with any other text
 - ii. If I preached from the dictionary, no lives would change
 - iii. It isn’t the preacher’s words, it’s HIS word that does it
 - 4. What do we preach? The Bible tells us!
 - a. 1 COR. 1:23 – “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;”
 - b. The Jews THINK they require a sign, but they ignore it
 - c. The Greeks THINK they are seeking wisdom, but ignore it
 - d. That NEVER changes the message!
 - 5. Why does it work? It shouldn’t! And without God it WOULDN’T!
 - a. 1 COR. 1:25 – “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”
 - b. It is beyond human power and understanding
 - c. ISA. 55:11 – “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”
- B. He lifted his voice and proclaimed
 - 1. God told Isaiah in ISA. 58:1 – “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”
 - 2. It certainly isn’t about popularity or fame or riches – ONLY THE GOSPEL

3. It was the work prophesied for John the Baptist in ISA. 40:3 – “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
- C. He quoted Bible prophecy
1. Preachers should preach the Bible! (Shouldn’t have to be said)
 2. Skyscraper Preachers – Just one story after another
 3. Certainly, make it “relatable” but not to the exclusion of Scripture
 - a. I grew up around agriculture – sometimes I talk about it
 - b. It helps me understand Biblical metaphors in certain ways
 - c. And if that helps highlight a passage, then Praise God
 4. But I don’t tell stories and then try to fit a Bible verse to them!
 5. The Bible is the MAIN thing!

II. PETER USES PARTICULARS (vs. 22-24)

- A. Jesus was APPROVED of God
1. That means God AUTHENTICATED His Son through many visible miracles
 - a. Many means it wasn’t a fluke
 - b. Visible means people saw them
 - c. Miracles means that it could NOT happen naturally!
 2. Even Nicodemus said in JOHN 3:2 – “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”
 3. 5000 men (plus women and children) were fed from 5 loaves and 2 fishes
 4. People heard about it all ACTS 26:26 – “For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.”
- B. Jesus was CRUCIFIED by wicked men
1. Even the Roman Governor Pilate was shocked by their evil intentions!
 2. MARK 15:14 – “hen Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him.”
 3. It was astonishing even to hardened soldiers.
 4. MARK 15:39 – “And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.”
 5. And He truly died, the Romans made sure of it
- C. Jesus was RAISED UP to life
1. The picture of Believer’s Baptism, where water symbolizes the Grave
 2. We sing: I serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today
 - a. I know that He is living, whatever men may say!
 - b. And the chorus, He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
 - c. That song isn’t just for Resurrection Sunday but for EVERY DAY

3. This is the Gospel – His Death, His Burial, and His Resurrection

III. PETER CITES PROPHECY (vs. 25-31)

- A. Joel foretold of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. JOEL 2:29 – “And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.”
 - 2. And Peter reminded them of Scripture
- B. David foretold of Jesus – His Resurrection and Kingship
 - 1. This comes from Psalm 16
 - 2. Most of the Jews knew this Psalm well, back to early childhood
 - 3. But can you imagine the sudden clarity and meaning in now held?
 - 4. They had JUST SEEN HIM!
- C. Jesus used a passage about David to confound the scribes
 - 1. MARK 12:35-37 – “And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David? (36) For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool. (37) David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly.”
 - 2. If Biblical preaching was good enough for Jesus
 - 3. Then it should be good enough for us too!

IV. PETER HAS PROOF (vs. 32-36)

- A. They were eyewitnesses of the Resurrection (vs. 32)
 - 1. Peter was there when they took Jesus
 - 2. Peter was there during the trial (until the cock crew)
 - 3. Peter was there at the crucifixion
 - 4. Peter was there in the upper room
 - 5. Peter was there when the Lord called to him from the shore
- B. They saw Him ascend into Heaven (vs. 34)
 - 1. Peter personally saw the Lord ascend into Heaven
 - 2. I’ve heard stories of “ministers” who get Saved
 - 3. And I think to myself, how could they preach without knowing Him?
 - 4. But boy, I bet they could preach more readily AFTER meeting Jesus
- C. Over five hundred at once saw Him alive
 - 1. 1 COR. 15:3-6 – “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: (5) And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: (6) After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.”
 - 2. The point is, there is NO DOUBT about His physical bodily resurrection

3. No court case in the history of the world needed 500 witnesses

V. PEOPLE WERE PENITENT (vs. 37-41)

- A. They were “pricked in their heart” (interesting that is singular not plural)
 1. They asked Peter what to do
 2. He gave them the answer: Repent and be Saved!
 3. And many of them followed this precious advice (vs. 41)
 4. Then they joined the church by Baptism AFTER Salvation
- B. The key word there is “Repent”
 1. That is not a word that is simply synonymous with “believe”
 2. To know who He is, we must first know who WE are
 - a. Sinners in need of Salvation
 - b. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God
 - c. Everyone!
 3. Repent doesn’t mean turning over a new leaf either
 - a. It isn’t a new year’s resolution
 - b. It isn’t a self-help plan
 - c. It isn’t doing good works
 - d. It is a realization about oneself and direction
 - e. And a TURNING from that
 4. It is a GODLY SORROW for sin accompanied by a change of MIND
 5. It is indispensable to Salvation
 - a. One can’t turn TO something without turning FROM something
 - b. We can’t turn TO God without turning FROM self and sin
 - c. We need forgiveness, but that is unavailable if we don’t first agree
 - i. If you think “I’m alright” then God can’t Save you
 - ii. His RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUDGMENT will not allow that
 - iii. And yet He WANTS to Save you
- C. Salvation is real
 1. God is not willing that ANY should perish
 2. He is MIGHTY to Save! He WANTS to Save!
 - a. He came to this EARTH to SAVE!
 - b. He came here so YOU could come to Him
 3. Be Saved today!