

Authentic Message

Grace Bible Chapel

Outline: The Acts of the Apostles – Acts 2:24-36

February 5th, 2017

Context: We continue the explanation of Peter introduced the last meeting. Peter is responding to the events of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the question of Verse 2:12 “what does this mean?” Peter, by the obvious empowerment of the Holy Spirit, first explains in the most majestic terms God’s view of salvation (Vs.2:22-23) - that the sovereign God provided the Savior while determining Israel would reject and crucify Him.

He then moves carefully through a Scriptural argument (Vs.24-36) showing these Jews precisely that the events of their involvement in rejecting Jesus Christ were prophetic according to Scripture. Peter does not compromise, flatter, or cater to these Jews. Nor does he use emotions or personal stories, but builds his entire case based on the Word of God. He boxes them in eliminating all other possible explanations. He bases all his arguments on what these Jews were familiar with in the Old Testament prophets, and brings it to a conclusion (Vs. 36) that Jesus is “Lord and Christ.” This is the first Gospel message following the work of the cross. In the parsing of this message and its construction, we learn much by example from the method the Holy Spirit used through Peter.

Broad outline of Acts (underlined is the immediate context).

- VI. The Power Needed (Acts 2:1-6:7)
 - D. Sovereign Salvation (Acts 2:22-42)
 - 1. Superlative credentials (Acts 2:22-23)
 - 2. Scripturally based message (Acts 2:24-35)

Key Words

- God (5)
- Him (5)
- Lord (4)
- David (3)
- Therefore (3)
- Jesus (2)

Introduction:

- I wrestled over the title – why? This is the first Gospel message following the cross & the first obviously directed under inspiration of the Holy Spirit – I ended up with the title “Authentic Message” – why?
 - The tendency of many is to wonder away from the Word’s message – add a little sugar, tone it down, make it more palatable, more politically correct.
 - Today’s typical message is a man-centered idea of love – as though God has the same definition of love as man to the exclusion of all else – “love” is not found one time in this message by Peter (certainly it is implied in what God did Rom. 5:8) – yet it’s mention is absent in this message, & more than that it is absent in the entirety of the book of Acts, a book filled with the Gospel.
 - Now, as the first Gospel message, even though directed to Jews - there is no doubt the elements are a primary exhibit for evangelism, then & today.
 - What is found is man’s terrible situation in sin & one escape – Christ. The substance of the message is – the Word of God, the Bible rightly divided - authenticity!
- Vs. 23 – Although it was God’s plan all along, the nation of Israel rejected their God provided promised Messiah to such a hateful degree they had Him crucified.
- 2. **Scripturally based message** (Vs. 24-35)
 - a. **Surprising confidence** (Vs. 24-28)
 - We have already seen Peter’s amazing confidence, especially in comparison to only a few days before when he was denying Christ in the most hideous manner.
 - Why does Peter now have such confidence? Two major changes:
 - He was a witness to the resurrected Lord (but that in itself is not complete, because others knew of Christ’s resurrection & yet continued in rejection Acts 2:32; John 11:46). Certainly witnessing the resurrection contributed to Peter’s faith, but...
 - The radical difference is now he has the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4) & with the Holy Spirit he is guided to understand the Scriptures (2 Pet 1:20).
 - Vs. 24–28 – “but God” – despite man’s rejection & terrible action God used the destructive will of men for His purpose & acted to bring salvation.

- Then Peter deals with the “impossible” for Christ to remain dead – He is life, all things are in His hands – speaks of deity, even His claim to be the Son of God.
 - He first deals with a fact – we will see later Acts 2:32; 26:26 “not done in a corner” – this crowd knew Christ’s resurrection was a fact – undisputed!
- Now, Peter moves on, but does not just speak from his own opinion – he has dealt with fact, & in the same sense will continue using fact – the Word.

Point: The issue of why Christianity as the only way to know God is the Word – the Bible, not opinions or superstitions. The same can be said of churches, what differentiates one assembly from another is their view, use, & reliance on the Word.

- What do we have with the Scripture – may I remind you, this is the Word of God – self proclaimed, self verified, & as Heb. 4:12 says “living, active, sharper than a two edged sword” – it is unique, supernatural, & does what nothing else will do.
 - Peter begins quoting: Ps. 16 – written 1000 years ago by David. Content:
 - Vs. 25 God’s presence.
 - Vs. 26 – hope – why is there hope?
 - Vs. 27 – Ps. 16:10 - the Holy One who will not undergo decay. This Scripture of Messiah was a mystery to the rabbi’s of Israel until Peter explained it!
 - Vs. 28 – instead this Holy One (Christ) is in God’s presence with gladness.

Point: Mat. 5:18 – “law” here is used of the entirety of the OT – see verse 17. There is nothing like the Bible. It is timeless – the past, the present, the future are all in the same in perfection – prophecy given to be fulfilled. The issue is understanding it.

- Therefore, an argument against the Bible (truth) is ludicrous / foolish – it cannot be won! Sure, it can be rejected & is but doing so is at the peril of the rejecter.
- So Peter bases his claims from the Scripture which of course are from God Himself – so these listeners are now backed into the corner – he continues...
- b. **Stolid argument** (Vs 29-31) – so, having taken these who claim the Old Testament back to actual text, he continues building irrefutable arguments.
 - Vs. 29 – “Brethren” – Peter is not calling them saved individuals – rather they are brethren because they are all Jews.
 - This is one Jew speaking as a Jew to other Jews.
 - So he makes his case “Confidently say” – almost humorous because no one can deny David did not die, his body decayed, & is with them to this day.
 - In fact if you visit Israel you can visit the tomb of David – now a shrine.
 - What Peter is saying is the Scripture David recorded could not be talking about himself – Peter is exegetically / systematically dealing with Scripture.
 - Vs. 30 – “And so” – here is the explanation! “because he was a prophet” this they would all agree – “that God had sworn to him with an oath....descendants on his throne” (recorded 2 Sam. 11-16 Davidic Covenant; Ps. 89:3-4; 35-36; 132:11).

Point: Don’t lose sight of the fact of what generated this response was the unusual events of Pentecost bringing the question of Acts 2:12.

Point: What is Peter doing? He is relying entirely on the clear statements – literal translation of the Word of God. Ultimately, it is not experience, emotions, intentions – everything in true faith comes back to & is centered on what the Scriptures say.

- Vs. 31 – “he looked ahead” – in other words, he as a prophet spoke by God of the promised One “the Christ,” & particular “of the resurrection” – here is where Peter applies direct logic – how did David address the Messiah’s resurrection?
 - “that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.”
 - The thrust of the prophecy is one of death – Hades, & decay are references to death. Hades is often an OT reference to the grave or place of the dead.

- The Messiah was prophesied to die, & yet incomprehensibly His body would not be left in the grave, nor allowed to decay. How these incompatible situations existed together was previously a mystery?
- Look back at Vs. 27 – who would not abandon His soul? “You” – “God” would not allow it – ie: David was addressing a supernatural intervention of God to the Messiah promised from the beginning & then thru David – And, the only explanation for the mystery of Psalm 16’s prophecy is “resurrection!”

c. **Stalwart explanation** (Vs. 32-35) – so Peter states in Vs. 32 “God raised up”

- Vs. 32 – “this Jesus” – refers directly back to the “Christ” (Messiah) of Vs. 31 – Peter is restating & reconnecting the obvious to these very witnesses.
- Vs. 33 – the “Therefore” – gives us Peter’s sub-conclusion - tying together the pieces – thus far – giving explanation – what is it?
 - “having been exalted to the right hand of God” as is promised by Ps. 16:8; Ps. 110:1; and the passage just viewed Acts. 2:25, “and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit” (Joel 2:28-29 w/Acts 2:17-18 in our previous study) – Peter wraps this together revealing what God is doing.

Point: This is the explanation of the phenomena of Pentecost – what just occurred is the Lord’s granting of the Holy Spirit resulting from God’s Old Testament promise to inaugurate the Messianic age (or last days of Vs. 2:17).

- Christ referred several times to this event (John 7:38-39).

Point: Again, what is Peter doing? He is doing what I like to call connecting the dots – all of us have done that as children & with our children. You have dots on a page & you connect the lines & a picture appears – so Peter continues...

- Vs. 34 – “for it was not David who ascended into heaven” – how do we know God is not referring to David’s soul after he died.
 - Peter goes to Ps. 110:1, (“Lord, My Lord”- deity – not David) one of the most previously mysterious Psalms in all Scripture – used several times by our Lord referring to Himself (Mat. 22:41-46) – now Peter is addressing the same person’s using the same text now explained.
- Vs. 35 – Then Peter quotes the continuation of this verse “until” – indicating an expanse of time.
 - The Jewish teachers never saw two comings of Messiah – yet it was there all along, a coming to die, a resurrection, & a time to sit at the right hand of the father while history is directed on earth toward His 2nd & final coming.
 - “I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet” a figure of speech denoting a coming time when Christ’s enemies will be in abject submission to Him – God is moving in history to establish His Son as the King.

Point: So David was not intended here as exalted to God’s right hand, but the Messiah promised of David’s seed (Acts 1:9-11).

Point: at this point of the message, Peter has accurately / precisely answered the question of Acts 2:12 “what does this mean? – referring to the supernatural coming of the Holy Spirit, & has done so via Scripture – the listeners are backed into a corner.

d. **Supreme conclusion** (Vs. 36) “therefore” – the final, or supreme conclusion.

- Vs. 36 -“all the house of Israel” – similar to brethren (Vs. 29) – idea is all Jews as those under the privileged covenant of God share the guilt of this sure reality.
 - “know for certain” – there is no doubt, no other conclusion, no other possibility!
 - “God has made Him” (Jesus Christ) “both Lord and Christ” (Messiah).
 - “has made” – poyeho – to appoint, execute, or cause – it does not mean create – He was already the eternal Son of God, but now He has come as a man (the incarnation) appointed by God as Lord and Messiah.

- “Lord” – which goes back to Ps. 110:1 (quoted in Vs. 34) “the Lord said to My Lord” – makes this a statement of co-equality with God.
- He is not just Messiah, He is your Lord – He is in other words – your God, your all, the One of whom comes total accountability for every person!
- “this Jesus” used again (as with Vs. 32) to ID Him as the very One just weeks ago they treated with all hostility & contempt.
- “whom you crucified!” – the most direct, but honest words & piercing words – this is precisely what happened. They did not recognize, but rejected Him, yet it was God’s sovereign will using their evil will.

Point: The full immense, amazing, heavy weight of this is brought to a powerful emotional conclusion right on top of their inescapable guilty heads.

- All of us have had situations in our life of immense trauma at some particular news – maybe the first word of the death of a love one, or some tough news of such a magnitude that it brought instant shock mentally & physically.
- But, Peter will not leave them justly condemned – he will provide an escape thru the very one they crucified, & of course this is God’s message – the Gospel.

Point: a message first of our sinful guilty situation, & then when seen, how God has moved to deal in grace thru Jesus Christ who is Lord / Messiah & the only way.

Closing:

- It doesn’t always happen that confrontation of Scripture brings conviction (ch.7).
- Here are some elements God obviously uses through Peter.
 - Peter’s unwavering confidence – not in himself, but God & the Scriptures.
 - He shows those he is addressing their terrible lost condition in sin.
 - He makes a systematic, logical presentation, explaining by connecting the dots.
 - He uses the Scripture – God’s truth, not opinion, to make every point.
 - His focus is Jesus Christ – everything ties together around & for Him.
- The all-time ultimate problem of man is described via Scripture – that is man is in natural rebellion to God. He needs peace with God, & it can only come one way – that is through belief in His Son. Making Him the “Lord” of one’s life!
- Have you come to grips with your condition in sin, and found peace with God through simple trust in His Son the only Savior?