

Death and Resurrection in the Preaching of the Apostles

Introduction

Some truths are essential to the gospel. In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, the apostle Paul tells the church in Corinth, “For I delivered to you as of *first importance* what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that **he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures.” The same emphasis is found throughout the book of Acts.

Preaching in Acts

The apostles were commissioned by Jesus to be his witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”. With the help of the Holy Spirit they began to fulfil this mission.

On the Day of Pentecost

2v22-24 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, **you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up**, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

In the Temple

3v13-15 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But **you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead**, of which we are witnesses.

Before the Sanhedrin

4v8-10 Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ...let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of **Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead**, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

Before the Sanhedrin again

5v30 **The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.**

Before Cornelius' Household

10v39-40 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, **whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day.**

In Pisidian Antioch

13v28-30 And though they found no cause for death in Him, **they asked Pilate that He should be put to death.** Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. **But God raised Him from the dead.**

In Thessalonica

17v2-3 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that **the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead**, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”

In Athens

17v31-32 He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by **raising Him from the dead.**

Points to ponder

We are called to continue this mission, proclaiming the same message with the help of the same Spirit. Is Christ's death and resurrection a central part of our testimony?

In Acts chapter 26 verse 8, Paul says to King Agrippa, “Why should it be thought incredible by you that **God raises the dead?**” Do we have confidence to proclaim this message to a sceptical world?

God has indeed raised Jesus Christ and he will also raise us up by his power.