

005 - Acts 2:22-40 Hear These Words  
GRBC 2012-01-01

Scripture Reading: Psalm 16  
Confession of Sin: Isaiah 53:5-6  
Sermon: Hear These Words Acts 2:22-40  
Benediction: Acts 2:36

## INTRODUCTION

These are the words that poor lost sinners need to hear in order to be saved from the wrath of God that is coming

- not that most *want* to hear them; no, they are not generally popular
- not that having heard them, they will enjoy it so much that they will come back to hear them again; no,
- but in order to be saved from the wrath of God to come, sinners need to hear these words
- of course sinners have been saved many times when they heard the truths expressed in these words expressed using other words, according to their own language and culture; not that they heard a different message, but that they heard this same message expressed in other words

These are the words the church needs to say.

- every time God's church speaks to the world, decisions have to be made about what to say; whether it is a local church pastor deciding what to say in the sermon, or a sent preacher, a missionary, deciding what to say in a religious discussion at a coffee shop, or a homeschool mom deciding what to say to her kids, we, the members of God's church, have to decide what to say to lost sinners
- at such decision points, we will be tempted to say what will make us pleasing to our hearers, or what we think will make them want to come to church
- but in order to be faithful to Christ's commission that His church testify to His resurrection, preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name, we must speak not the words the sinful world wants to hear, and not words of our own invention, but these words
- of course more can be said, and often should be said; you see in Acts 2:40 that Peter spoke many other words that day; also the other disciples spoke; still, these are the words that the Holy Spirit caused the author to record as the essence of the message preached that day
- of course these words could be pared down to be even shorter, and sometimes they have to be, because there is some interruption; yet these are the words the church must preach
- of course these exact words don't have to be quoted verbatim; the exact words used are chosen according to who is speaking and who is listening; but the truths expressed here, even when expressed in different words, make up the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the only way of salvation for sinners; therefore these are the words the church needs to say; let's see ,then, what they are

## BODY

Sinners need to hear, and the church needs to say,

I. that Jesus is a man proven to be from God (verse 22)

- A. many men and women have claimed to be appointed by God, Muhammed and Joseph Smith just to give two prominent examples
- B. but only one has been attested by God by being empowered to perform all the miraculous signs that Jesus of Nazareth performed
- C. these were witnessed by thousands of people, and the eyewitness testimony of many of these was committed to writing, and those written accounts passed down to us
- D. note that Jesus being the Son of God is not the main idea preached to sinners here; it is the idea that Jesus is a man; certainly the truth about His divine nature is present in this message, but only between the lines; Jesus is proclaimed to sinners as a man; this is consistent throughout the sermons in Acts

II. that everything done to Jesus was according to God's plan (verse 23)

- A. when you read on the first page of the Bible that God created the whole universe out of nothing, you can reason from there that nothing happens in this universe that He didn't know about ahead of time, because it was his determined purpose for it to happen
- B. but God doesn't leave that truth to the imperfections of human reasoning; He expresses it clearly here---even the worst crime ever committed by mankind, the lawless crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, was accomplished according to what God knew ahead of time because He had determined it ahead of time
- C. Note these truths here laid side by side
  1. As to who is the ultimate, first cause of it---God, by whose perfect decree all things take place, is the ultimate or first cause of everything
  2. As to who is morally responsible for it---the human being, who is a free moral agent, is culpable, responsible; he is to blame

We could not set up something like that, just as we could not create the universe from nothing. But God can, and has set up this relationship between Himself and His creatures.

III. that Jesus was killed by both Jew and Gentile (verse 23b)

- A. you have taken
- B. by lawless hands
  1. Greek word is *anomos*
  2. "without the law"
  3. meaning the Gentiles (Poole, Clarke, Morgan, Barnes)
- C. when Adam sinned, there was no distinction between Jew and Gentile; all mankind sinned in Adam when he sinned
- D. when Jesus Christ was crucified, there was a distinction between Jew and Gentile; so to show that Jesus Christ was dying to atone for sins not only for Jews, but also for Gentiles, it was necessary that both Jew and Gentile participate in His murder
- E. all these centuries later, issues of Jew and Gentile are still on the front burner of public thought; it is relevant today that both Jew and Gentile are parties to the death of Christ

IV. that God raised Jesus from the dead (verse 24a)

- because it was impossible for death to hold Him (verse 24b)
- because it was foretold in the scriptures (verse 25-31)
- because there are witnesses to the fact (verse 32)
- to get technical for a moment, understand the relationship of God to the resurrection of Jesus
  - Jesus Christ is unique; there is no one like Him, because he is one person consisting of human nature attached to divine nature

-so, when Jesus Christ died, it was His human body that died, not the divine nature, which cannot die  
-so it is not necessary to specify that God the Father had to have raised Jesus from the dead, because Jesus Himself was dead; to say that God raised Him or simply that He rose is correct either way

V. that God has exalted Jesus to His right hand in heaven (verse 33)

A. have you noticed that the world adores the babe in the manger?

1. sinners look at pictures, admire nativity sets, sing sweet songs, all about the babe in the manger

B. have you noticed that the Roman Catholics love their crucifixes, with Jesus still nailed to the cross?

C. have you noticed that many protestants love children's storybooks with pictures of humble Jesus, a man like everyone else

D. but does the world also enjoy the thought of all-powerful Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, enthroned in heaven?

VI. that Jesus is both Lord and Christ

A. He is kurios, Lord, king

1. isn't it amazing that now Christians say "make Jesus Lord of your life"

2. as if you could do any such thing!

B. He is Christ, the anointed one, the Messiah

VII. that God is making all of Jesus' enemies His footstool (verses 34-36)

A. God the Father has seated Jesus Christ the Son at His right hand

B. Now He is making all of Jesus Christ's enemies His footstool

C. Isn't it interesting that Christians now say that your problem is you don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ

1. that is actually great news to the sinner, that he has no relationship with the great Word of God whom he has spurned

2. but it isn't true; the sinner has a relationship; he is the enemy of the Lord of Lords; and all such enemies are to be trampled under His feet

VIII. that every person must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (verse 38)

IX. that every person who repents in the name of Jesus will receive rich benefits (verse 38b-40)

-remission of sins

-the gift of the Holy Spirit

-salvation from the fate of his perverse generation