

## Reflections

Why, among all the cults and philosophies competing in the Greco-Roman world, did Christianity succeed and outstrip all others? Why did it succeed despite getting more severe opposition than any other? Why did it succeed though it had no influential backers in high places, but consisted mainly of the poor and slaves? How did it succeed so completely that it forced the most powerful state in history to come to terms with it, and then outlive the very empire that sought to uproot it? It is clear that at the very beginning of Christianity there must have occurred a vast release of energy perhaps unequaled in our history. Without it, the future course of the Christian religion is inexplicable.

- Kenneth Scott Latourette, Yale Historian

We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.

- John Stott

Scripture Acts 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

## Sermon

Sending the Church on Its Mission Russ Hightower, AM; Paul Kim, PM

## **Events & News**

#### Community Groups: Invitation to Leadership, July 26

Are you looking to take more ownership in your Community Group? Join us if you have any interest in starting a new CG, Launch Group, or multiplying a group. Breakfast provided.

#### Community Group and LOL Leader Retreat, August 17-19

If you're a Community Group or Life on Life Group leader, hit the pause button before the summer ends! Join us for a weekend getaway to the Mt. Gilmore Retreat Center in Malibu as we take a 360° look at what it means to be a leader.

Author and speaker Nancy Ortberg will help us discover how to become more influential in our personal lives, our work, and our ministry. Aspiring leaders are also welcome!

View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, PacificCrossroads.org/Events, or speak with someone at the 'New Here?' ten

# **Ministry Resources**

#### **Pastoral Care**

Our pastoral care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org or call our office at 310.551.0081.

#### **Celebrate Recovery**

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery.