



REDEEMER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES

DECEMBER 4, 2022  
PASTOR JEREMY RODRIGUEZ

## ACTS 1:1-8

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,<sup>2</sup> until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had given orders by the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.<sup>3</sup> To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of things regarding the kingdom of God.

# ACTS 1:1-8

<sup>4</sup> Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of 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 began asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

# ACTS 1:1-8

<sup>7</sup> But He said to them, “It is not for you to know periods of time or appointed times which the Father has set by His own authority; <sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.”

# WITNESS

a person who **sees an event**, typically a crime or accident, **take place**.

## JOHN 20:24–29

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

# JOHN 20:24–29

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

# BLIND FAITH VS. EVIDENCE BASED FAITH

The Scriptures don't tell us to believe where there is no evidence; quite the contrary! We have many evidences of God's kindness, goodness, righteousness, love, provision, healing, and faithfulness. Blessed are those who haven't seen, yet believe, doesn't mean we don't have *any* evidence.

## COLOSSIANS 2:1-8

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have in your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,<sup>2</sup> that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and that they would attain to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself,<sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.<sup>4</sup> I say this so that no one will deceive you with persuasive arguments.

## COLOSSIANS 2:1-8

<sup>5</sup> For even though I am absent in body, I am nevertheless with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your orderly manner and the stability of your faith in Christ. <sup>6</sup> Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

## COLOSSIANS 2:1-8

<sup>8</sup> See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.

## COLOSSIANS 2:9-12

<sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over every ruler and authority; <sup>11</sup> and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision performed without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

# **WE ARE WITNESS TO AN INCREDIBLE RESURRECTION**

For we have been  
raised with Christ!



## COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

# 1 PETER 3:8-16

To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; <sup>9</sup> not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For, “THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. <sup>11</sup> “HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

# 1 PETER 3:8-16

<sup>12</sup> “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST EVILDOERS.” <sup>13</sup> And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE IN DREAD,

# 1 PETER 3:8-16

<sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect; <sup>16</sup> and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

# A QUALITY WITNESS

We are to live Godly lives, thirsting after righteousness, being holy as God is holy. The quality of witness lies within their character, therefore, if we are witnesses of Christ, our character ought to demonstrate it! We have passed from death to life, so don't gratify the flesh with its lustful and evil desires.