

“The Message of the Cross” Acts 2:22-35.

Series: The Church Begins - Acts” Part 5.

Rev. Dr. Scott Arnold. June 27, 2021. FBC Los Angeles

Key Thought: God’s Holy Spirit empowered faith for believers, to preach the Gospel of God’s Kingdom, to convey the vision of people coming to salvation in Christ. Peter focused upon God’s message given through what Jesus accomplished on the cross. The message of the church is always Christocentric, understanding God’s saving grace based upon the cross, forgiveness and life over death.

I. God’s plan of salvation overcomes wickedness. (2:22-24)

- A. How was Jesus credible as the Christ? (22)
- B. How did God handle rejection using the cross? (23)
- C. How did God bring power and hope for salvation? (24)

II. God’s Son Jesus was revealed to David. (2:25-28)

- A. David had a vision and experience of Jesus. (25-26)
- B. David was filled with God’s saving hope and joy. (27-28)

III. Peter speaks of God’s salvation to fellow Israelites (2:29-31)

- A. One of David’s descendants would be Savior (29)
- B. The Savior King Messiah: death and resurrection (30-31)

IV. “God has raised THIS JESUS to LIFE”. (2:32-35)

- A. God brought new life in Jesus Christ. (32)
- B. Jesus Christ is Lord with the authority of salvation. (33)
- C. David was a human king, Jesus Christ is the Divine Lord (34)

Key Point: God worked through the Cross of Jesus to reveal His love for sinners and hope for salvation.

PRAYER

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

25 David said about him: *“I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.”*

29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, *“The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”*

Questions for Discussion:

- 1.** The cross is a stumbling block for some people? Why? How can we explain how God shows His love to forgive us?
- 2.** How have you experienced Jesus forgiving you? How have you been called to forgive others as Jesus did?
- 3.** When we pick up our cross and follow Jesus, as the Lord called us to do, are there ways we can convey hope and love?