

The Power of the Resurrection

I. The Character of Christ

Acts 3:14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

A. The Holy One

Holy in His relationship to the Father

1. The testimony of Isaiah the prophet

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

2. The testimony of the psalmist

Psalm 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

3. The testimony of the demon in the maniac of Gadara

Mark 1:24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

D. The Just One

Just in His relationship to mankind

1. Testimony of Pilate's wife

Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

2. Testimony of Pilate

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

3. Testimony of Judas

Matthew 27:3-4 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

IV. The Choice of the Crowd

Acts 3:14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

A. Crucify Him – Christ

John 19:14-15 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

B. Release Barabbas – Criminal

Luke 23:18 And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas:

III. The Crime of the Crucifixion

Acts 3:15 "And killed the Prince of life"

Question: How can anyone kill the author of life?

A. Jesus spoke and Lazarus came out of the grave

John 11:43-44 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

B. He commanded and a fish with a coin in its mouth came in obedience to be caught so Peter and Jesus could pay their taxes.

Matthew 17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

C. He spoke, and all things were created

Colossians 1:14-17 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Answer: He is the Good Shepherd, Who laid down His life willingly. (John 10:10, 14-18; Philippians 2:6-8)

IV. The Conclusion of the Cross

Acts 3:15 “whom God hath raised from the dead;”

A. The author of life could not be bound by death.

1. The testimony of the angel

Matthew 28:5-6 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

2. The testimony of over five hundred eyewitnesses

1 Corinthians 15:5-6 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

C. The confidence that the believer has in facing death, and his salvation is based on the resurrection of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1. The resurrection distinguishes Christianity from all other religions

John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

2. The last enemy to be destroyed in death

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. The Confession of the Christians

Acts 3:15 “whereof we are witnesses.”

A. The challenge to the unbelievers

1. Faith

Acts 3:16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. Repentance

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

C. The commission to the believers

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Our human, sinful natures are more comfortable with a guilty Barabbas than the sinless Christ; but it was the sinless Son of God who made it possible to know that our sins are forgiven.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.