

Jesus the Christ

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 2:22-37.

B. Peter said that throughout the age between Jesus' first and second coming one could be restored to God by calling upon God's name.

C. That name was Jesus.

D. Peter's argument was so effective that some 3,000 people responded in faith.

II. The first movement of Peter's argument: the foundation of facts.

A. It all rests on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus—normal events.

B. Without these events, Christianity would be a fake.

C. Our faith rests upon the historicity of these events.

D. Each of these events point to something in life.

1. The ministry of Jesus is the light of Jesus.

a. This is the pattern of normal humanity that He set forth.

b. The miracles of Jesus show how humanity was supposed to function normally.

2. The death of Christ reveals the purpose and plan of God.

a. It was not an accident.

b. God arranged Jesus' death for us so that our evil could be dealt with.

c. We are all capable of doing evil, and God intends to address this.

d. Once the choice is made to reject God, the solution must be met through Jesus' death.

3. The resurrection of Christ reveals the resurrection power given to man.

a. This is the ability to bring life out of death.

b. Resurrection is the only way to extend our life.

III. The second movement of Peter's argument: a pattern of predictions.

A. He quotes from David showing that David predicted the necessity and reality of the resurrection. (Psalm 16)

1. Jesus had to be what He was to do what He did.

2. We must have what He did to be what He was.

B. The one referred to in the Psalm is clearly Christ because David is still in the tomb.

C. Death had no power over Jesus Christ.

IV. The last movement of Peter's argument is a demonstration of the results.

A. God made Jesus Lord and Christ.

B. This is the proof of what God told David. (Psalm 110)

C. "Lord" refers to Jesus power.

D. "Christ" is Jesus' title meaning Messiah, the promised one.

E. Sooner or later, a person has to deal with Jesus whether he likes it or not.

Application questions:

1. Why is history so important to the Christian faith? Can the events of Christianity be said to be historical?

2. How does the Old Testament help to validate Jesus?

3. How should we view Jesus? Why does the speaker say that everyone must eventually make a decision about Jesus?
