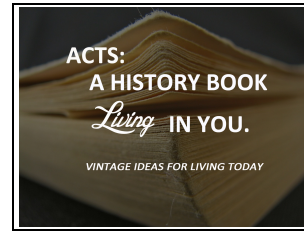


Notes:

Sierra Community Church January 5, 2014-Dan Wilvers



Part 1:
Acts 1:1-9
The Ascension of Jesus

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ...8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. Acts 1:1-3,8,9

I. What was it about the early Church that led to its widespread acceptance?

... I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach.

1. Christianity is about what Jesus has done not what you have done.

What has he done?

- He suffered for mankind's sins
... After his suffering
- He showed himself to be alive
... he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive."
- He ascended
...he was taken up before their very eyes

2. Jesus works from heaven through us

But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

John 16:7

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even **greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father.

John 14:12

II. How can this power of Christianity be received?

1. You believe that the facts of Christianity are objectively true.

***But you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Acts 1:8

- So we become his witnesses
...*And you will be my witnesses,*

“Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble. Matthew 5:11

2. Real Christianity is always an intersection of truth and power, never one without the other.

How do you get this power?

- Paul speaks to this new power believers possess:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation ...”

Romans 1:17

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:24

The Bible says the truth of the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus,

- that truth doesn't bring power
- it does not result in power
- it does not lead to power
- it does not have power.
- **It is the power.**