

CP - 8/27/23

Acts Recap — Certainty

Sermon Outline

Luke 1:1-4 — *“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.**”*

Look at our Acts Series Logo — UP, DOWN, OUT

1. **Certainty that the Lord Jesus is alive, ascended, seated, and soon to return.**

- Acts: 1:4; 1:8–11; 2:23–24; 2:32–36; 3:6; 3:15–16; 4:10–12; 5:30; 7:52; 7:55–56; 9:3–6; 9:10–15; 9:22; 10:39–41; 13:28–31
- Jesus is alive!
 - Victorious
 - No other name (Acts 4:12)
 - Jesus is Lord! (Phil 2:8–11)
- Jesus has ascended!
 - Took humanity to glory
 - Brought home the victory (Psalm 24)
- Jesus is seated!
 - In absolute authority (Acts 2:33–36)
 - God is making Christ’s enemies His footstool.
- Jesus intercedes for the believer! (Rom 8:34, 1 John 2:1, Heb 7:25)
- Jesus is returning soon!

2. **Certainty that the Holy Spirit has descended, is active, and indwells every believer, empowering them to do what God has called them to do.**

- Acts 2:4; 4:8; 4:31; 5:19; 5:32; 6:5; 6:8; 6:10; 7:55; 8:26 (Philip), 8:17; 9:31; 10:1–48 (Peter/Cornelius); 11:24; 12:6–19 (Peter freed); 13:2–4; 13:9; 13:52
- The Holy Spirit has descended.
 - Jesus’ promise that the Helper would come
 - He comes to carry out the work of the Father.
 - The Gospels are the story of Christ coming to Earth, and Acts is the story of the Holy Spirit coming to Earth.

- The Holy Spirit is active.
 - He orchestrates the Father's will.
 - He lines up people's paths, speaks in dreams, leads saints as they flee.
- The Holy Spirit indwells all believers.
 - To empower us to walk in obedience to God in boldness and faithfulness
 - To give us words to say in times of need
 - To convict of sin
 - To lead us in righteousness and truth

3. Certainty that God has sent the Church to preach the gospel, build the Church, and live bold, faithful lives.

- Acts 1:8; 2:42-47; 4:29-30; 4:32-37; 6:1-7 (widow/deacons); 8:4; 8:26; 9:15-16 (Saul's Purpose); 9:22; 9:31; 13:1-4; 13:32-33
- Preach the gospel.
 - No greater calling and responsibility
 - God builds his church through the preaching of the gospel.
 - Enemies become footstools through the preaching of the gospel.
 - No man can be saved without the preaching of the gospel.
 - Not just from the pulpit but as you go (8:4)
- Build the church.
 - God does the building, but we do the stewarding.
 - Not just people in seats but healthy churches
 - Doctrine, taking care of others needs, confronting one another, building up one another.
 - Acts 9:31 — The game plan for the church (built up, peace, walking in the fear, comforted by the Spirit)
- Live bold, faithful lives.
 - We don't back down.
 - We don't compromise.
 - We don't fear men or seek applause on Earth.
 - We fear God and seek the applause of heaven.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you from the Bible and the sermon Sunday?
2. How is the Word of God a source of assurance and certainty for us? How else does a believer grow in assurance of who God is and what He has done? Feel free to share experiences of dealing with doubt by searching the Scriptures.
3. What are the implications for both the believer and unbeliever that Jesus is alive, seated, and soon to return? How does it and how should it change the way we live?
4. What are the implications for the believer that the Holy Spirit has come? Why are you most thankful for the gift of the Holy Spirit?
5. What is a healthy church? What characteristics make up a healthy church?
6. Spend time praying for this fall semester. Pray for God to give us a hunger for His Word and a greater love for His people. Pray that we will commit to God's mission individually and corporately.