

Reasoning from the Resurrection (2)

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Introduction: There is a constant battle for the hearts of men.

- A. The great commission seemed impossible when it was given. **(Mt 28:18-20)**
 - 1. Look at the men it was given to.
 - 2. How would it be possible to bring people of all cultures into one body that would uniformly “observe all things that I have commanded you.”
- B. Ultimately God had a plan to win the hearts of men.
 - 1. His kingdom will be a people whose eyes would be opened and their hearts turned. **(Acts 26:16-18)**
 - 2. I believe that in the Cross, the Death, Burial and Resurrection we will find complete direction in how to walk with God.
 - 3. We have previously studied how God gave evidence of the resurrection and how that evidence was used to open eyes and give hearts an opportunity to turn to God.
- C. How should we live after obeying the gospel?
 - 1. In this series we will examine how our God used the gospel to mold a kind of heart that would approach the scriptures in the same manner in which the preaching of the scriptures converted them.
 - 2. We will look at specific foundational issues that flow from these truths.

I. The Resurrection of Christ shows the necessity of reason

- A. Jesus could have used a different approach in converting men. **(1 Cor 1:18-22)**
 - 1. Jesus could have used miraculous power to produce a PowerPoint presentation in the sky!
 - 2. He could have used wisdom and speech to make it easy to believe.
 - 3. Instead He chose to let people weigh evidence and struggle to believe. **(Mt 16:13-17)**
- B. The Apostles reasoned from common examples that the people were aware of.
 - 1. The powerful miracles were given to the people to produce a debate in their hearts and among themselves. **(Acts 2:6-8, 12-13)**
 - 2. They knew that God had acted, but what did it mean?
 - 3. Many in the crowd had been eyewitness to the miracles of Christ. This example combined with other evidence would lead them to a new understanding. **(Acts 2:22-24)**
 - 4. These things were not just “historical narrative” without implications of a path of obedience to those who reasoned about it.
- C. The Apostles appealed to these men to apply previous Old Testament prophecy. **(Acts 2:16-21)**
 - 1. Peter used this passage and made application. It was up to his hearers to determine if he had misapplied the passage.
 - 2. The Apostles did not quote Old Testament passages to unconverted gentile audiences.

3. What if some among the Jews had developed an approach to Joel *that before they even examined the book* they would say that nothing in the book would apply to the coming Messiah?
4. We are facing similar philosophical approaches to scripture today.
- D. The Apostles gave eyewitness testimony. **(Acts 2:32)**
 1. As we studied earlier, the hearers needed to reason about many things before accepting their testimony!
 2. All of this evidence would help them to open their eyes to what is true. They now had to fight an additional battle to yield their hearts to God. **(Acts 2:36-38)**
- E. God wishes us to use this same kind of mind (reasoning) to continue to discern what the will of God is for the Christian. **(2 Cor 10:1-7)**
 1. We are living in a time where reasoning from examples and drawing conclusions about God's will is being ridiculed and even eliminated before the Bible is opened.
 2. Also remember that reasoning from scripture can allow us to understand important facts but *that alone may not impact the heart*.
 3. We must in our study be vigilant to see the facts of scripture and combine in with a tender, obedient heart towards God. **(Jn 4:23-24)**

II. What the Resurrection teaches us about future events

- A. There are many today saying that there is no future literal resurrection of the dead, a future second coming of Christ or a future judgment day of all men.
 1. There were some in the 1st century that improperly reasoned from scripture about these things. **(1 Cor 15:12, 2 Tim 2:15-19)**
 2. Before you write off controversy as unnecessary or label Paul as a "legalist" because he marked one over his teaching you should consider these situations.
 3. Also this teaching was not among "many thing we can disagree on." This is not an issue like the eating of meats. **(Rom 14:1-3, 14)**
- B. The resurrection and ascension of Christ was a factual event involving Jesus' physical body.
 1. Jesus' physical body was raised. **(Lk 24:39-45)**
 2. Jesus physically ascended on a cloud. **(Acts 1:9-11)**
 3. An angel of God tells us how this example will be repeated!
 4. John also tells us about how this future event will affect people that are now dead! **(Rev 1:7; Jn 19:32-37)**
- C. The resurrection of all men is assured.
 1. Those on Mars Hill in Athens were told of what the resurrection means to them. **(Acts 17:30-31)**
 2. The One Hope of the Christian is based on this truth! **(2 Cor 4:13-14)**

Conclusion: How do you read the Bible?

Topics for future study: The Lordship of Jesus and how we read the Bible, The first Day of the Week and Early Christians, The Ad 70 Doctrine and how doctrine impacts fellowship.