

## 0 Resurrection: Pressing the Claims of Christ

Acts 26:19-23

### 1 Paul's Continued Defense Before Agrippa

- Main point:
  - Hope of the promise made by God to the fathers (26:6)
    - "to which the twelve tribes hope to attain" (26:7)
  - The question that confronts everyone:
    - "why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?" (26:8)
      - This is a "world view" question, it confronts the heart of what you (really) believe

### 2 Why would it be incredible to you?

- It would if you are a materialistic atheist
  - Why is "testimonial proof" of the resurrection insufficient for the atheist?
    - You look at it and say "how could anyone not believe it?"
    - The unbeliever (everyone really) has "firmly held ultimate commitments" out of which one's world view is formed
      - The unbeliever offers up another explanation that is consistent with his/ her "firmly held beliefs"
        - » Science will come up with an explanation

### 3 Why would it be incredible to you?

- It would if you are a "rationalist"
  - The standard is human thinking (mind) rather than God's thinking (mind)
    - Whatever the human mind can conceive of or approve
    - If it cannot meet "my standard" and I can't approve of it, it cannot be done
    - If I cannot come up with a "reasonable explanation" to the facts as I interpret them, then it cannot be done

### 4 God -> Resurrection -> Message

- Approach God in humble boldness to gain (true) knowledge (Prov 1:7) of the promise of hope (18)
  - Darkness -> to light (John 8:12)
  - Dominion of Satan -> to God (Col 1:13-14)
  - Enmity -> to peace (Eph 2:14-16)
  - Alienation -> inheritance [sonship] (Rom 8:16-17)

### 5 Message: confronting the human condition

- What is the "heart" of the human condition
  - Idolatrous autonomy – this is why we are called to repentance (20, self-rule)
    - Being a "self-determination" kind of person
    - The "I" will determine what is good and evil (it started in the garden)

- Enmity
  - We are not neutral creatures
    - What we serve demonstrates our allegiance and the direction of our heart
  - We stand opposed to the truth (1 Timothy 6:20)

#### 6 **Message: answering the human condition**

- Anchored in the Scripture “stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place” (22b)
- Humiliation of Christ
  - Suffer as a servant and sacrifice (23a)
    - Shed his blood (gave his life) and died
  - Exaltation of Christ (23b)
    - Resurrection of the dead
    - He proclaims light – victory over sin, death and the grave

#### 7 **Message of Light**

- Shining the truth upon the human condition
  - Nature and consequence of sin
  - Nature and consequence of rejecting the true God
- Shining the truth upon the proper way of life
  - Nature of the path in walking with God
    - His word is a light to our path and a lamp to our feet
  - Nature of hope
    - In Christ, for the Jew and extended to the nations

#### 8 **Message**

- God’s call goes forth in the gospel
  - To all the world, Jew and Gentile
  - To a world that stands opposed
    - God extends mercy and grace
  - To repentance
    - Turning to God from idols
    - Performing deeds appropriate to repentance (26:20)
      - Securing one’s gains

#### 9 **Final Thoughts**

- God’s self-attesting authority found in His Word confronts the world
  - In terms of the failure of our own firmly held ultimate commitments (world view)
    - The failure of worldly (human) wisdom
    - The failure of humanity
  - In terms of Christ
    - His death, burial, resurrection

- The good news to the nations: Jew and Gentile
- Forgiveness of sins and new life