

IMPORTANCE OF "PROOFS"

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INTRODUCTION

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- A. TEXT: The Book of Acts begins by telling us that Jesus: *"showed himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing unto them by the space of forty days, and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God"* (v. 3).
 - B. What happened to the disciples when Jesus died.
 - 1. "I go a fishing" (John 21:3).
 - 2. On the road to Emmaus..."And they stood still, looking sad" (Luke 24:17-21) READ.
 - C. We can well imagine the discouragement and despair that gripped the disciples when Jesus died.
 - 1. We can see the effects of these proofs in the lives of the disciples - from despair at the day of His death -
 - 2. To their expectations as the day of His ascension.
 - D. All of this declared and showed unto the disciples the Necessity, Importance and Message of the cross.
 - 1. Discuss the cross being the very center of the Bible.
 - 2. Should preach the cross (I Cor. 1:18; 23; 2:2).
 - 3. What Is the Message Of The Cross?...What does it reveal?
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Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin

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- A. Sin is so awful that it cost God's Son.
 - 1. *"For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man some one would even dare to die. But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* (Rom. 5:6-8). See also II Cor. 5:21; I John 2:1,2.
 - 2. God does not regard sin lightly, and neither should we.
 - B. Give examples that indicate that we do.
 - 1. Sin not called sin...but sickness.
 - 2. Just a different life style.
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THE LOVE OF GOD

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- A. John 3:16; Romans 5:8; I John 4:8-10.
 - B. In the cross we have Love without dimension (Eph. 3:17-19)
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Man's Inability to Save Himself

- A. *“For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, that no man should glory. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them.”* (Eph. 2:8-10).
- B. However, that does not mean that man has nothing to do to be saved. (Matt. 7:21; Acts 2:40).

BLESSINGS NOW ENJOYED

- A. Remission of sin (Matt. 26:28)
- B. Redemption (Eph. 1:7)
- C. Reconciliation (Eph. 2:13, 16)
- D. Forgiveness (Col. 1:14) (All These The Results Of The Cross)
- E. Sanctification (Heb. 13:12).
- F. Cleansing (I John 1:7)
- G. Washing (Rev. 1:5,6).
- H. Justification (Rom. 5:9)

God's Willingness To Save

- A. *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”* (Isa. 55:7) See II Pet. 3:9; Mat. 11:18-30; John 5:40.
- B. Observe the word “whosoever” in Rev. 22:17 and in Acts 10 :34.
- C. God's willingness to save illustrated in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

D. CONCLUSION:

1. Will God's love as portrayed on the cross go unrequited?
2. Will you take up your cross today....now?
3. Give conditions necessary to salvation for all present.

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