

What to study.

The subjects for the Christian's study programme can be remembered easily from an acrostic, (a number of lines of writing, especially a poem or word puzzle, in which a combination of letters from each line spells a word or phrase,) as on the word 'study'

Study: the Scriptures by reading, searching, comparing, and meditating.
Theology: the knowledge of God Who has revealed Himself in His Word.
Universe: the wisdom and power of God in all His works.
Doctrine: acquainting ourselves with sound, systematic teaching.
Yourself: remembering Paul's exhortation to Timothy – "Take heed to thyself and not to the doctrine."

1 Timothy 4:13, 15, 16; 2 Timothy 2:15

A CALL TO ATTENTION



Lock Article 170

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words;

These are the descendants of Jacob, the son of Isaac, or Israel, as the Lord renamed him, the Jews.

Peter now proceeds to the third part of his case, to show that Jesus Christ had been raised up from the dead, that the events which had occurred were in accordance with the scriptures, and particularly the fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel.

Which was proof of his resurrection, and of his exaltation as the promised

Messiah, also that Joel was a true prophet of God, in that his words were fulfilled, and that, therefore, they should repent for their great sin in having put their own deliverer to death.

THE PROPHESED MESSIAH PRINCE

Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs,

First by his name Jesus, which the angel gave him before his birth, which his name signifies Saviour, because he is the Saviour of his people from their sins, and then of Nazareth, a city in Galilee from where he was called, a place generally spoken as a way of contempt by the Jews, because of the way they spoke.

I am sure you can see the great gulf between the way man sees a person, which they would consider an oddity, and the true view of God, who looks on the heart. Here is the undeniable evidence that is presented by Peter as proof of Christ's identity. Such as by casting out of devils, cleansing lepers, restoring sight to the blind, causing the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak, and the lame to walk, and by raising the dead.



Do you remember the man who was born blind, and was healed, but the Jews would not believe that he was given his sight by the Lord Jesus, who said to the healed man in,

John 9:24 Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. Then the wonderful simple, irrefutable evidence given in his answer to his doubting, unbelieving questioners,

John 9:25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

A profound answer given from the heart of a grateful man that confounded the educated unbelievers.

THE GREAT GOD JEHOVAH

Acts 2:22 which God did by him (Christ), in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

The evidence was before them, (the man's interrogators) confirmed by many witnesses, and their own heart was surely convicting, and convincing them, but because of the envy, and fear, turned to their own reasoning, that they would lose their place of influence, and be taken over by the Romans, they would not admit that the Lord Jesus was the King.



THE PREDETERMINED COUNSEL OF GOD

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

God's determinate counsel and pre-arrangement did not take away the guilt that lay upon the murderers of Christ. The hands that slew Him were wicked ones, but God justified Jesus by the Resurrection, which abolished the judgment of men and proved Him the Son of God with power.

Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; Verse 4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

If you do wrong, you are accountable for that wrong, and there is a providence which ordains everything, as certainly as there is, that providence that doesn't remove from any man the full responsibility or accountability before God, for what he does.

THE POWER OF GOD OVER DEATH

Acts 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden (held,) of it.

Here we can say, that not only is Peter making a declaration to this truth, and to all the disciples then present who had seen Jesus after he had risen from the dead, bearing witness that they had seen the Christ, who was crucified, alive and well after his death. It must have been a very impressive sight if all the followers stood, or indicated in some way, with a wonderful public verification to that grandest of all facts, the raising again from the dead of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God.

This being what the apostles were witnesses of, and the Jews endeavoured to stifle it as much as they could, it being the sign Christ gave them, that the grave was three days in the belly of the fish, so he would be three days in the grave. Jesus was proof and truth of his Messiahship, and this being also a fundamental article of the Christian religion.

OLD TESTAMENT

PETER'S REFERRAL TO THE OLD TESTAMENT PROOF

Acts 2:25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

David speaks of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, in a prophetic manner, and this is proof that David was indeed a true prophet of the Lord, for it came to pass, just as it was written.

Psalms 16:1 Michtam of David. Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust. Verse 8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Verse 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

The whole psalm is written by David, as a type, or shadow of the Messiah, and the description concerning the person described in it agrees with him, such as his trust in the Lord as he was man and Mediator, his very great regard and delight in his fellow saints, and in exceeding great satisfaction in having the God of Israel for his God, and in having his portion among his peculiar people. Who were a delightful inheritance to David, his thankfulness for advice and direction in the time of his sorrows and sufferings, and his dependence on the almighty power of God to support and protect him, with the joy and comfort he was filled with because of Christ's resurrection from the dead, and his enjoyment of the heavenly glory.

The Psalmist praises God for the counsel and instruction, to help, protect, and defend. The phrase is expressive of the nearness of God and Christ, his presence with him, and readiness to assist and stand by David against all his enemies. Everything belongs to man, who belongs to God, he need not be afraid even of the grave, for the language which is here prophetically used for Christ himself. He is not afraid to die, for he can say as here

Psalms 16:10. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; What a confidence, what a fellowship what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms, A confidence to every born again, saint of God.

REJOICE IN THE LORD, O LET HIS MERCY CHEER

Acts 2:26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad:

The three organs of our body by which we praise our God the most, for my heart rejoiced with the joy of the soul, gladness of the tongue, and quietness of all the whole body, to depend upon the sure hope and confidence in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the blessed hope, that as Christ rose from the grave, so will he raise the saints, and meet them in the air.

For if men are past feeling, or their conscience seared, they must needs be fearful and sorrowful, and so, consequently, miserably tormented, so long as they feel themselves destitute of the help of God. But that sure trust which we repose in God, does not only deliver us from unnecessary concern, but also rejoices our hearts with wonderful joy and gladness.

That is the joy which Christ promised to his disciples, and which he testified could not be taken from them as in, **John 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your joy shall be full, and no man taketh from you.** He expresses the permanence, and greatness of the joy when he says, That this rejoicing cannot be kept in, but that it will break forth into the expression of rapturous gladness of the tongue.

LOOK TO THE OLD TESTAMENT FOUNDATION

moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

See how Peter keeps to the Old Testament, these quotations added force to his argument, for his hearers believed the ancient and Holy Scriptures to be the very voice of God, and therefore he quotes from it. Having quoted from the Psalms, Peter goes on to make this comment upon David's words.

THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF BELIEVING FAITH

Acts 2:27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

What applies to the Lord Jesus Christ, and King David applies it to the saved person, the born again child of God, the person who has two birthdays, the first natural, and worldly, the second supernatural, and spiritual. The Lord Jesus has given these portions of scripture to comfort our hearts, so that we can smile at death, for it now has lost its sting, for if my body is put in the grave, it is as safe as if it were in the arms of the Lord Jesus Christ. But there is a time coming when the bodies and souls of the unsaved will be raised from the sea, the grave, and the uttermost part of Heaven to stand before the Great White throne of God.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. Verse 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Verse 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. Verse 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Verse 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The utter destruction of the devil's kingdom leads to an account of the day of judgment, which will determine every man's everlasting state, and we may be assured there will be a judgment. This will be an agonizing day, when all the unsaved shall appear before the judgment-seat of Christ. The Lord help us firmly to believe this doctrine of the judgment to come. It is a doctrine that made Felix tremble, and here we have a clear description of it. We beheld the throne, great and white, and very glorious, and the tribunal of judgment, perfectly just and righteous. The throne of iniquity, that establishes wickedness by a law, has no fellowship with the righteous throne of Christ, and his tribunal, but shall be condemned.

The appearance of the Judge, is such that the Lord Jesus Christ, who then puts on such majesty and terror, that at the end of the world, the earth and the heaven flee from his face, and there is no place found for them, there is a dissolution of the whole frame of nature. The persons to be judged, the dead, small and great, young and old, low and high, poor and rich. None are so miserable, but they have some talents to account for, and none so great as to avoid the jurisdiction of this court.



Not only those that are found alive at the coming of Christ, but all who have died, and are in the grave, or any else where, all persons shall surrender the bodies of men, hell shall surrender the souls of the wicked, the sea shall surrender the many who seemed to have been lost in it.



The rule of judgment settled: The books were opened. What books? The books of God's omniscience, the book of the sinner's conscience, the book of all the life and doings of the sinner which, though formerly secret, will now be revealed, the book of the scriptures, the statute-book of heaven, the rule of life, containing the law, the touchstone by which the hearts and lives of men are to be tried.

In eternal election, God acts with absolute sovereign freedom, in the works of men, what they have done and whether it be good or evil, so Christ will be justified when he speaks, and clear when he judges. This is a fearful thing to think upon, if you are unsure of your salvation, or if you have never confessed your sins to the Lord Jesus Christ, never asked for forgiveness, and the cleansing of the blood, and pleaded for the Lord Jesus to save your soul from the lake of fire for eternity. Then it is necessary to act now, once you are dead there is no hope as it is made very plain in,

Luke 16:22 the rich man also died, and was buried; Verse 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

This is when you are given up to the final judgement according to their life on earth, then you are committed to your eternal destiny. Then there is the eternal comforts for the believer for us as in,

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

This applies to the person in this life who has called upon the Lord to be saved, when peace like a river attends his way, though many things attend his life here on earth, all can have the assurance of the presence of the Comforter, and he can also look to the future joys, peace, and security, in his glorified body, clothed in the righteousness of Christ, in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ for all eternity.

Wouldn't you prefer this? AMEN.

Thanks for reading!
WE HOPE THE ARTICLE WAS A BLESSING TO YOU.

Please feel free to share these articles with family and friends!

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