**SERMON NOTES**

**To The Ends of the Earth**

**A Sermon Series Through the Book of Acts**

**“God Raised Him Up”**

**Acts 1: 12 – 26**

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ comes to conform believers into the image of Jesus, to display His saving and transforming power in our life, and to empower us to obey His missional command to be His witnesses to a world of people without Christ.**

**Clearly, the gospel of Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mission and not tied to one location but indeed meant to go out and further out in order to reach all those who are far off from Christ.**

**Peter says that what is happening now before them is that the Lord’s word spoken through Joel is coming to pass, as these 120 or so believers are now being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit, speaking and proclaiming the mighty works of God.**

**Many Christians struggle with walking in grace and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jessus fully, as He intends. The enemy loves to work overtime to feed us these lies of our continuing guilt and make us believe them.**

**Peter in this moment is standing in grace that Jesus had died to give him. He is not beat down by his past sin that he had repented of, but rather, he is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in the forgiveness of Jesus and moving forward to be used by God despite his mess-ups.**

**Because of Jesus, God promises to no longer hold our sin \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us, when we repent and ask forgiveness. Let us believe that and preach that truth to ourselves, every day.**

**When it comes to conviction of sin, the Holy Spirit is going to lead you to repentance through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and rest in that grace. That’s His job. Conversely, the flesh or the enemy will always lead you to despair, and unresolved guilt and shame-that’s their goal.**

**The “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” is a theme in Scripture - a way of speaking to the days of the new covenant when it has come.**

**The last days were begun by the coming of Jesus and sending of the Holy Spirit – making the new covenant promise of Ezekiel 36 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us.**

**We live as believers now in the “already but not yet” where some realities of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have come and some yet await the final fulfillment.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means to speak a message from God. It is to speak God’s word faithfully.**

**The Spirit can come to anyone but in order to receive it, it is conditioned on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The Sprit’s coming to indwell a person is not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a certain gender, age, class, or race.**

**The criterion to be saved and to receive this gift of the Holy Spirit of God is that you must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the name of the Lord.**

**There is no universal salvation where we all get to Heaven someday. There is a distinct requirement: calling on the name of the Lord to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**To call on the name of the Lord means to cry out to God for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from sin and for salvation. It is to express your dependence and absolute necessity for Him to do that which you cannot do – forgive you of your sin and reconcile you to Himself.**

**A mark that saving grace is real in your life is that you extend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and forgiveness to others. Those who don’t understand the magnitude to which they have been forgiven by God are those who are often graceless toward others.**

**This crowd did not lack evidence and proof that Jesus was who he said he was, yet they still had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him.**

**The reality that the murder of Jesus on the cross was not a knee-jerk reaction but rather the eternal plan of God from the beginning is a reality that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ affirms over and over again.**

**Even while this was God’s plan from the beginning, human beings are still \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the sinful choices of their own will to kill the Son of God.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has a definite plan and foreknowledge, working all things according to the counsel of His will *and* you and I and all people are responsible and accountable for the real and actual choices we make.**

**We are guilty of sending Jesus to the cross because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that is our sin that necessitated the death of Christ.**

**God’s eternal plan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the work of the lawless ones who crucified Jesus.**

**Of all the things Jesus did in His life, God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him from death was the most important.**

**Scripture is to be our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and guide in all things, for it is God’s’ word and without error in all that it says.**

Blanks: Spirit; global; indwelled; forgiveness; resting; against; Christ; last days; possible; new covenant; Prophecy; right response; exclusive; call; saved; deliverance; grace; rejected; Bible; responsible; God; corporate guilt; outshined; raising; authority;

Congregational Scripture Reading – Acts 4: 23-31

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed

for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.