

Proclaiming the Resurrected Christ

Our Glorious Message to Inmates across the Country

(by Pastor Bob Hoekstra, IPM Director)

Our primary outreach to inmates is the literature and letters that we send out every day all across the country. The heart of our message is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This has been the glorious message of the Lord's church from the very beginning in the book of Acts. The following excerpts from one of our **Day by Day by Grace** devotionals gives testimony of the risen Christ being the central focus of the gospel.

*This **Jesus** God has **raised up**, of which we are all witnesses . . . the **Prince of life**, whom God **raised from the dead**, of which we are witnesses . . . Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom **God raised from the dead** . . . And with great power the apostles gave witness to the **resurrection of the Lord Jesus**.*

*And **great grace** was **upon them all**.*

(Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:10, 33)

At the Lord's Supper, the **resurrection** was **implied**. "I will not drink of the fruit of the vine **until** the kingdom of God comes" (Luke 22:18). At the tomb, the **resurrection** was **documented**. "**He is not here, but is risen!**" (Luke 24:6). With the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost, the **resurrection** was **proclaimed**. "**Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, and put to death; whom God raised up**" (Acts 2:23-24).

The **risen Christ** was the constant message of the early church. In Peter's Spirit empowered message at Pentecost, he repeatedly proclaimed the resurrected Lord Jesus. "**Him . . . you have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up . . . You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption . . . he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ . . . this Jesus God raised up, of which we are all witnesses**" (Acts 2:23-24, 27, 31-32).

Not long after this glorious beginning, another proclamation of the risen Christ occurred as the lame man was healed at the Beautiful Gate. When the crowds gathered to see what had happened, Peter's message was again centered around the resurrection of Jesus Christ. "**You denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses**" (Acts 3:14-15).

Soon after this, the religious leaders arrested the apostles, "**being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead**" (Acts 4:2). Here, Peter again proclaimed the resurrection. "**By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole**" (Acts 4:10).

It was the **grace** of God that empowered the church to witness boldly about the risen Christ. "**And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all**" (Acts 4:33).

[NOTE: Our "Day by Day by Grace" Devotionals may be freely accessed from the Home Page of our
IPM Website]