

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted May 1, 2022

T I T L E: A Characterization of Change Resulting from a Genuine Conversion to Christ

T E X T: Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:50-51

I. WHEN THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST BECAME A REALITY IN THE LIFE OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS IT BROUGHT ABOUT A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES.

A. It was a definitive change.

Peter is an excellent example of a definitive change. See Peter's preaching in the book of Acts. (The change was obvious)

Matthew 26:31–34, 69–75

B. It was a lasting change even to the point of death for many.

Here's a short list of disciples who were martyred for preaching that Jesus was the Son of God and that he rose from the dead:

Peter, Andrew, and Simon were all crucified. Matthew was killed by the sword. Mark was dragged to death by horses through Alexandria's streets. Luke died by hanging. James the Greater was beheaded. James the Just was thrown down from a pinnacle of the temple after refusing to deny Jesus Christ. Thaddaeus (sometimes known as Jude) was killed by arrows.

- Thomas was run through by a spear in India.
- Bartholomew (also known as Nathanael) was whipped to death in Armenia.
- Matthias was stoned and then beheaded.'

Read this account of Andrew's death. Does this sound like a man who had doubts about Jesus being raised from the dead? Andrew was crucified in

Greece after being whipped by seven soldiers. As he was being led to the cross, he said: "I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it." According to accounts that were left behind, Andrew did not die quickly; he lived for two more days and preached from the cross to anyone who would listen until he finally died.

C. It was a courageous change. Acts 1; 4:13, 18

D. It is often a costly change. 2 Tim. 3:12

E. It involves a cooperative change.

Philippians 2:12–13

F. It was certainly a needed change.

Christ commissioned the disciples just before His ascension.

Especially if we are to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" Christ says we are.

Genuine salvation always involves a change for the better. You cannot become a Christian and remain as you are. A genuine conversion experience will not permit you to remain as you are.

G. Someday it will be an "other worldly" change.

THE GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL INVOLVES THE CRUCIFIXION, RESURRECTION AND THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST WITH HIS ASCENSION BEING NO LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN HIS CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION. (His ascension adds His finishing touch to the gospel message.)

His ascension implies a particular significant fact, that is, heaven is a place in which every believer will find himself/herself someday.

The fact that Jesus had a resurrection body that was subject to spatial limitations (it could be at only one place at one time) means that Jesus went somewhere when he ascended into heaven. (Grudem)

Acts 1:3 ---- To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:9–11

Luke 24:50–51

The ascension of Christ is a reminder that this world is not our home and an encouragement to hang in there especially in the face of difficult times knowing that someday, perhaps sooner than we think, we will say with confidence "We're out of here."

Conclusion: The Bible has always told us that this world is not our home. But for a long while it's felt like it might be. Now our culture is changing - and we are starting to feel like strangers in our own land. It's tempting to grow angry, or keep our heads down, or give up altogether. (MacArthur or Begg)

But this isn't the first time God's people have had to figure out how to live confidently and faithfully in a society that opposes God's ways and God's word. We have done it before, and we can do it again. (MacArthur or Begg)