

TAKE YOUR STAND

PART 2: TAKE YOUR STAND WITH THE WITNESSES

Sermon Notes

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Intro:

If you stand for nothing, you'll fall for anything.

The central claims of Christianity revolve around a series of historical events.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (quoting a Christian creed dating back to the earlier days of the movement)

1. Jesus died on a cross
2. Jesus was buried
3. Jesus rose from the dead
4. Jesus appeared to witnesses

1 Corinthians 15:17

Do you believe the witnesses?

1. Peter (Cephas)
2. The 12 disciples

"I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it.

Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world – and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible." ~Chuck Colson

3. James - Jesus brother
4. Other Apostles
5. Crowd of 500
6. Paul himself

Acts 4:20

Hebrews 12:1-3 - witnesses throughout history who tell us that a life of faith is worth living.

Conclusion:

We are ALL witnesses

John 20:29

Acts 1:8

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Have you ever witnessed an incredible or memorable moment (a historical event, an athletic achievement, etc)? What did you experience?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be a witness of the gospel (especially as someone who wasn't there when the events took place)? For reference, read Acts 1:8; 4:18-20; John 20:24-29.
 - Why do you think we are "blessed" for believing as those who did not see Jesus in the flesh (John 20:29)?
2. Read Hebrews 12:1-13. What stands out to you? Who makes up this great cloud of witnesses? Why are they important? What does it mean to "[fix your] eyes on Jesus" (v. 2)?
3. Paul gives us a simple formula witnessing: "What I received I passed on to you..." What have you received? What are some practical things you can do/have done to pass that on?

Application:

1. To whom will you pass on what you have received? How will you do that this week?

Prayer: Pray for opportunities to pass on your faith.

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