

THEME: Christ is Raised and Exalted: The grave could not hold him! And no prison, earthly or spiritual, can hold those who have believed the words of *this Life!*

The Power of the Cross and the power of the Risen Christ!

Introduction – Continuing in study of Acts. Come to portion that shows the great power of the resurrected Christ in action – and highlights the conflict between the obedience of the Apostles and the forces of darkness and unbelief.

I. Resurrection Reality

A. Revealed – this is what the Apostles were preaching.

1. Open grave – Resurrection wasn't secret – hidden.
2. Open prison – The Apostles are delivered. NOTE: God doesn't always do that. Example: Richard Wurmbrand

B. Declared

1. Their instructions – v.20.
2. The words of *this Life?* John 1:4; John 6:35; John 14:6; 1 John 1:1-4

NOTE: Regardless of the opposition – we must share the word of This Life!

II. Resurrection Rejection

A. Exposed

1. Opposition to Apostles? Jealousy!
2. Opposition to Jesus? His Claims and Actions.

B. Rebuked

1. Sadducees try to rebuke the Apostles - "You would bring this man's blood upon us."
2. But are rebuked by them instead. Matt.27:25
3. The Sanhedrin is rebuked through a sermon. (30-32) Emphasizes three truths:
 - God Raised Jesus from the Dead
 - God Exalted Him as Savior for the forgiveness of sins
 - God Gave the Holy Spirit to His people.

III. Resurrection Response

A. Rejection?

- Deny the reality of the Resurrection? You must live without the hope and promise of forgiveness of sins.
- Deny the reality of your own resurrection? You will surely know the wrath of God against sin and unbelief.
- Deny Christ before men – and he will deny you before the Father.

B. Receive him through repentance and faith. John 6:47; John 11:25; Acts 10:43

C. Opposition today? Surely!

1. Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead?
 - Pray for faith to stand firm – We have nothing to fear!
 - For boldness when the pressure is on to “keep silent”
2. Do you believe that you too will rise from the dead – to face your God?
 - Live as one who awaits, and prepares for a life in perfect love, grace and peace!